

DTI blunder puts Ridley under pressure

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Doctors win approval to advertise services

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

FAMILY doctors were given the go-ahead yesterday to advertise their services on television, radio and in newspapers to attract patients.

The General Medical Council, which has been opposed to the idea since it was founded in 1858, accepted that the move would be in the public interest. It issued a warning, however, that GPs would not be allowed to "promote" their services. They could not claim superiority to other practices or say that they provided services that others did not.

If the advertisements included promotional material or GPs attempted to recruit patients through "cold calling" either by visits or telephone calls, they could still be liable to disciplinary action. Mail shots by GPs advertising practice facilities will be allowed, but only in the local area.

The new policy, which takes effect from today, comes after a recommendation from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in March 1989 that GPs, though not specialists, should be allowed to advertise their services.

The Office of Fair Trading immediately asked the General Medical Council to revise its guidelines - which banned advertising - within six months, but the deadline was extended after lengthy discussions with the council.

The GMC had feared that advertising would exploit vulnerable sick people, but yesterday Sir Robert Kilpatrick, its president, said that most people were in good health when they chose a GP.

The council will now encourage GPs to publish practice leaflets giving factual information about their qualifications and services, surgery times and possibly a statement about their approach to medical practice.

It also hopes that both health authorities and family practitioner committees will produce comprehensive leaflets of both NHS and private practices in the area, allowing patients the chance to compare the services provided.

"There is a general requirement that any advertising must contain only material which is legal, decent, honest and truthful. In addition, doctors publishing information about their services should not abuse the trust of patients or attempt to exploit their lack of medical knowledge," the GMC said.

"They must not offer guarantees to cure particular complaints, and no claim of superiority should be made either for the services offered or for a particular doctor's personal qualities, qualifications, experience or skills."

The decision to reverse the GMC guidance comes after a recommendation from its standing committee on professional conduct and medical ethics. The council backed the committee at its annual meeting yesterday afternoon despite a warning by Dr John Marks, chairman of the British Medical Association, that some patients would suffer.

"Let us not kid ourselves. A tiny minority of doctors will abuse the system and a few patients will suffer," Dr Marks said.

Dr Lotte Newman, of north London, said she was concerned that unsolicited leaflets from doctors would be pushed through patients' letterboxes. "It diminishes our profession. It makes us look like pizza parlours promising quick delivery," she said.

Mr Alexander Carline, a barrister MP and lay member of the GMC, said: "I belong to a profession that has been dragged in wigs screaming into the modern world. Having arrived there we have had no difficulties with it at all. There is no evidence that the introduction of advertising has done anything other than improve the services available."

Dr Donald Irvine, chairman of the standards committee, emphasized that most people were in good health when they chose their GP and should be provided with full and accurate information of the services available to them in their area. "In contrast, when people need specialist treatment they are often very ill and vulnerable and need expert advice from their GP about the treatment that will be best for them."

Under the new GMC guidance, specialists will not be allowed to advertise but they will be able to keep GPs informed about the services they can offer and to publish their names and qualifications in national and local directories.

Incentive scheme to cut GPs' spending

FAMILY doctors are being asked to "volunteer" for a scheme to give financial incentives to GPs who under-spend the drugs budget they will be given from April next year (Jill Sherman writes). The money saved would be spent on improving medical facilities in their area.

A working paper published by the Department of Health yesterday confirmed that the drugs budget would not be cash-limited and GPs would be allowed to exceed their indicative budgets for clinical reasons.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, said: "Under this new scheme [indicative prescribing] doctors will be able to continue to prescribe the necessary drugs for all their patients. The aim... is not to deprive sick people of the medicines they need. We do aim to eliminate wasteful and unnecessary expenditure on drugs."

The White Paper on health reforms initially suggested that all family practitioner committees - which administer GP practices - would be able to keep 50 per cent of any savings on the budgets of GPs in their area; GPs would be penalized for over-prescribing.

When the Government decided to drop that plan the incentives and penalties seemed inappropriate. Ministers, however, were anxious to include some element in the scheme that would encourage doctors to prescribe cost-effectively and "put downward pressure" on the drugs bill. Although GPs will be given budgets there will be little incentive to stick to them apart from peer pressure.

The working paper proposes to set up a limited number of voluntary local incentive schemes: any local medical committee can present its family practitioner committee with a target-saving for prescribing costs in its area.

"To ensure that the scheme does not result in under-prescribing the LMC will need to be satisfied that such a target-saving is achievable without detriment to patient care," the paper says.

The savings target would be set lower than the national prescribing budgets set by the family practitioner committees. If the target was achieved half the sum would be given to the committee to spend on primary care projects in the following year.



Robert Patrick Peter Laird face to face with Professor Robert Edwards, the in-vitro fertilization pioneer of the Bourn-Hallam group, Cambridge, in London yesterday to meet the team that made his birth possible. Baby Robert, named after the professor, the late Patrick Steptoe, and Mr Peter Rizk, who led his parents' successful treatment programme, is the group's 2,500th assisted conception baby

Junk mail curb 'disappointing'

By DAVID SARTSD

TOO few people know about an organization which enables them to have their names taken off "junk" mailing lists, Sir Gordon Borrie, the Director General of Fair Trading, said yesterday. He called on industry, including the Royal Mail, to invest far greater amounts of money so that the Mailing Preference Service (MPS) can become a widely-used and effective deterrent.

Addressing the annual luncheon of the MPS in London, Sir Gordon called for a national publicity campaign to publicize it. The MPS was set up in 1983 but at present has only 311,000 names of people who have expressed a desire not to receive junk mail.

"If we used the take-up rate as an indicator of success, we would have to conclude that the disappointingly low level shows that it has not been the success that it could and should have been," he said. "I believe that this low level of usage by the public is more likely to reflect a lack of knowledge of its existence than any lack of discontent with direct mail."

Although there had been a recent upsurge in public interest in the work of the MPS, Sir Gordon called for an effective publicity campaign which would have to be properly resourced.

"To publicize the existence of the MPS without increasing the resources available to it would be counter-productive. If it could not keep pace with demand the MPS would be discredited," he said.

At present, the MPS is funded by such organizations as the British Direct Mail Association, the Association of Mail Order Publishers, the Mail Users' Association and

Boy killed tyrannical father

A BOY aged 11 killed his father with a shotgun after suffering years of physical and emotional abuse.

The man was a "maliciously cruel tyrant" who had reversed a tractor over his son when the boy was aged only three, causing severe leg injuries, Preston Crown Court was told yesterday. Mr Richard Henriques, QC, for the defence, said the father reversed a dumper truck over the boy three years later.

The boy, who was ordered by Mr Justice Ewbank not to be named, pleaded guilty to murder, but guilty to manslaughter on the ground of provocation. He was ordered to be kept in the care of the local council who might decide he can return home later.

Mr Henriques said the dead man, a retired horse trader aged 70, subjected his son to ill-treatment and appalling conduct almost daily. "He administered a reign of terror, was habitually drunk and had an uncontrollable temper."

Mrs Helen Grimrod, QC, for the prosecution, said the boy shot dead his father on January 10. He had since been threatened by half-brothers and had suffered nightmares in an assessment centre.

Mr Henriques had asked the judge to grant a supervision order allowing the young boy to go home to his mother's "love, care and affection" which she would have liked to have given him for the past 12 years.

Cut grass the nation's aroma

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE definitive aroma of the British Isles has been synthesized by scientists as part of a project to create the national smells of the European Community.

A whiff of old Blighty, it is claimed, can be so overwhelming that many a hard-bitten ex-patriate is left reaching for his handkerchief and books the next flight home.

The definitive aroma of the nation is neither roast beef, Yorkshire pudding, a London ale or Lancashire cheese. Instead, two basic chemicals, cis-3-hexenol and trans-2-hexenal, are enough to conjure the Dover cliffs, the scientists behind the scheme say.

"These are leaf alcohol and leaf aldehyde, the molecules produced when grass is freshly cut," Dr Michael Moissef, said. The Toulouse-based biotechnologist has been commissioned to produce the perfumes for an exhibition, being billed as an "olfactory evocation" of Europe's diversity, which has opened near Strasbourg.

"You have so many golf courses, gardens and parks that freshly cut grass is the most evocative aroma of your country," Dr Moissef said. He called himself an aroma sculptor and is a specialist in the way plants communicate with scent.

As part of the exhibition, at the Alsace Museum of Posts

Climate changes are real, meeting told

By RUTH GLEDHILL

PEOPLE should not be lulled into a false sense of security by revised forecasts which suggest that temperature and sea level rises brought about by global warming will not be as high as it was at first thought, a conference at the Royal Geographical Society in London was told yesterday.

Even small rises in temperature in Britain could cause dramatic changes in the landscape as a result of altering flood, drought and rainfall patterns, according to scientists at the conference. In America, serious effects of global warming are already being felt. In the Antarctic, which is especially sensitive to warming, temperatures have risen at a rate faster than anywhere else in the world.

Dr David Drewry, director of the British Antarctic Survey, disclosed for the first time at the conference the result of recent measurements, which show a rise in temperature in the Antarctic over the past four years of 0.065C a year, nearly six times as fast as temperature rises measured at weather stations throughout the southern hemisphere.

He said that the sea, which has risen about 30cm over the past 100 years and is expected to rise another 30cm in the next century, could rise by twice as much as a result of melting of the ice sheet.

Professor John Lewin, professor of geography at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, and one of the conference organizers, said that even a slight temperature rise on the boundary between frozen and unfrozen areas could be critical. Oil pipelines lying over frozen ground could be damaged and distorted by erosion, rising temperatures could destroy coral reefs in the tropics and in Britain, this year's winter storm could become the norm. That would lead to big changes in the landscape, as flood waters speed up bank erosion, carve out new river channels and spread sediment.

Professor Malcolm Newson, of Newcastle University, said the effect of cultural activities on rivers in Britain are "minor" compared with those of the climatic fluctuation now predicted. There was a need to relocate people and businesses from flood plains, and, when that is not possible, to perfect early weather warning systems so people could be evacuated from threatened areas within an hour.

"If the climatic projection is correct, the north and west of Britain can expect more flooding as a result of rainfall," he said. Flood plains in the south and east can expect more flooding from the sea, while the south of England and eastern Scotland would become drought areas with less rainfall. "Some northern and western rivers could change course dramatically by the year 2030, simply because the movement of sediment will increase with the increased power of flooding."

In America sea levels have risen by 1ft each 100 years on the mid Atlantic coast where the federally insured flood programme has billions of dollars of insured properties close to the water's edge, the conference was told. Professor Stephen Leatherman, of the Centre for Global Change at Maryland University, said about 90 per cent of the US's sandy beaches were being eroded. The Atlantic coast average erosion was between 2ft and 3ft a year, and the Gulf coast exceeded 5ft a year, but the Pacific coast was stable. "Accelerated rise due to the greenhouse effect will at least double and perhaps quadruple erosion rate," he said. That would further jeopardize vulnerable properties eventually resulting in massive destruction during a future storm.

French air controllers threaten holiday flights

AIRLINES were drawing up contingency plans last night to beat a planned strike by French air traffic controllers which threatens to disrupt flights to the Mediterranean and Paris over the Bank holiday weekend (Harvey Elliott writes).

The French controllers have chosen the weekend to take industrial action when British schoolchildren begin their half-term break and motor-racing enthusiasts throughout Europe flock to Monaco for the Grand Prix. The Paris controllers plan a strike on Saturday, Sunday and Monday which, if it goes ahead, will seriously curtail the number of aircraft allowed into the air space over Paris.

Others, based in Nice, have chosen Monday as their day of action because that is the day when special charter flights and many light aircraft will be heading towards the city for the Grand Prix. That is certain to disrupt other flights heading to favourite Mediterranean resorts forcing airlines to find alternative routes.

Urgent talks are taking place to try to prevent the strike but it seems certain that many airline passengers face long delays to any flight which crosses French air space.



Colonel Aleksandr Shvachkov, deputy director of the Central Armed Forces Museum, Moscow, on board a Russian personnel carrier presented to the Tank Museum, at Bovington, Dorset. With him are two Tank Museum staff

Scientists close in on the secret of eternal youth

By PEARCE WRIGHT, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE prospect of extending the human lifespan to "five score years and ten" by injecting "longevity genes" is no longer a matter of idle speculation, according to a leading scientist.

Researchers seeking cures for disorders associated with ageing, such as skin cancer, think they are closing in on the basic mechanisms that determine longevity.

Professor Barbara Gilchrist, of Boston University School of Medicine in the United States, believes a handful of master genes orchestrate the 50,000 or more genes that contain every individual's blueprint and regulate growth. She suggests that life could be prolonged by injecting replacement master genes as people grow older.

The theory, outlined at an international conference in London yesterday, grew from laboratory experiments to regulate the lifespan of mice, the success of a drug to smooth wrinkles and discoveries made from a genetic comparison of skin cells in young and elderly people.

One of the key pointers was the success of

trials of smoothing wrinkles with a drug based on retinoic acid. The preparation, derived from vitamin A, was developed 25 years ago and is an established treatment for severe cases of acne.

Doctors noted that the skin of older patients benefited generally when retinoic acid was applied as a cream. The first controlled trial of its anti-ageing effects began in the United States two years ago, in 30 subjects between 35 and 70 years of age. Coarse wrinkles were smoothed, skin became smoother and sun spots disappeared in enough of the volunteers for a bigger experiment. While confirming the first results, the scientists were unable to explain the biological mechanism for the apparent anti-ageing process.

Professor Gilchrist told the conference, Clinical Dermatology in the Year 2000, that subsequent studies had shown that retinoic acid worked with DNA in certain skin cells to restore growth processes that had slowed in older people but the researchers were still exploring the precise biochemical steps involved in such a reversal.

In that search, Professor Gilchrist's group has identified one of the key changes between

young and older people in comparing the activity of a group of important cells known as T-cells, which are renewed routinely but which have lives of up to 10 to 20 years.

The studies show that the biochemical activity of the cells declines with age as if they were responding to a pre-programmed operation.

Retinoic acid smooths wrinkles by increasing the production of the epidermal cells which comprise the outer layer of the skin, so that replacement by new cells keeps up with the normal loss of wear and tear. Elderly skin of some volunteers, which had thinned with the effect of sun and age, was restored to the thickness of a younger person, producing a smoother and more compact texture.

The effect in smoothing out coarse wrinkles that involve a deterioration of deeper structures of the skin is a greater mystery for the scientists to explain. In addition, the molecules called melanocytes that form the blotchy patches in skin that is older, or has been over-exposed to sunlight, were reduced. How long these changes can be sustained is unknown.

Furthermore, retinoic acid can provoke side-effects in some people, producing a

severe skin reaction. Hence, Professor Gilchrist emphasized that the preparation should only be used on prescription only for serious skin disorders.

She did, however, say that advances in medicine, nutrition and changes of life style already meant that by the year 2000 the proportion of the population over 65 years would be four times higher than at the start of the century, and survival into the nineties would be commonplace.

If the idea is correct, identification of the master genes that orchestrate the ageing process would probably come from the Human Genome project in which international research teams have begun task of pinpointing and unravelling the chemical structure of the all the genes, she said.

The understanding, so far, has come as a bonus from the research essential to cope with the increasing number of elderly patients who will be seeking medical help. One in 10 visits to the family doctor in the is for a skin-related disorder.

BULGARIANS LIVING IN THE UK TO PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS

The Embassy of the P.R. Bulgaria in London announces that elections for a Grand National Assembly of Bulgaria are due to be held on 10 and 17 June 1990.

In accordance with the Act for the election of a Grand National Assembly and the decisions of the Central Electoral Commission only one round of elections will be held abroad, on 10 June.

Besides those Bulgarian citizens working in the country's diplomatic, consular and trade missions or for Bulgarian companies, people having an individual employment contract with a foreign company or organisation and are duly registered in the Consular Section of the Bulgarian Embassy, people staying abroad for studies or on specialisation courses, entitled to vote are all Bulgarian citizens permanently residing in the UK on the basis of a mixed marriage and all those who have lived abroad for more than five years.

Those wishing to vote should have their names registered in the electoral lists. For this purpose they will have to inform the Embassy's Consular Section by sending their full name, date and place of birth, permanent address and the number of Bulgarian passport, not later than 2 June. This could be done either personally or by telex, telegram and telefax.

Bulgarian citizens on a short visit to the UK are supposed to vote in Bulgaria unless they have a special certificate to vote abroad.

The polling in the UK will take place at the Bulgarian Embassy, 187 Queen's Gate, London SW7 5HL, on 10 June 1990, from 7.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m.

Bulgarian passport is required as the voting has to be registered in it.

For more information please call the Embassy on Tel. 071-584 9400/9433, 071 581 3145/567/8/9, Fax. 071 584 4948, Telex 25465.

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Police give minister the silent treatment

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

TWO thousand representatives of Britain's police greeted the Home Secretary with a deliberate, stony silence as he spoke at the Police Federation's annual conference in Scarborough yesterday.

Mr David Waddington, speaking at the conference for the first time, ignored the treatment and later said the conference was entitled to make its point strongly. "There is no cause for resentment. I put my views robustly in reply. I have a broad back," he said.

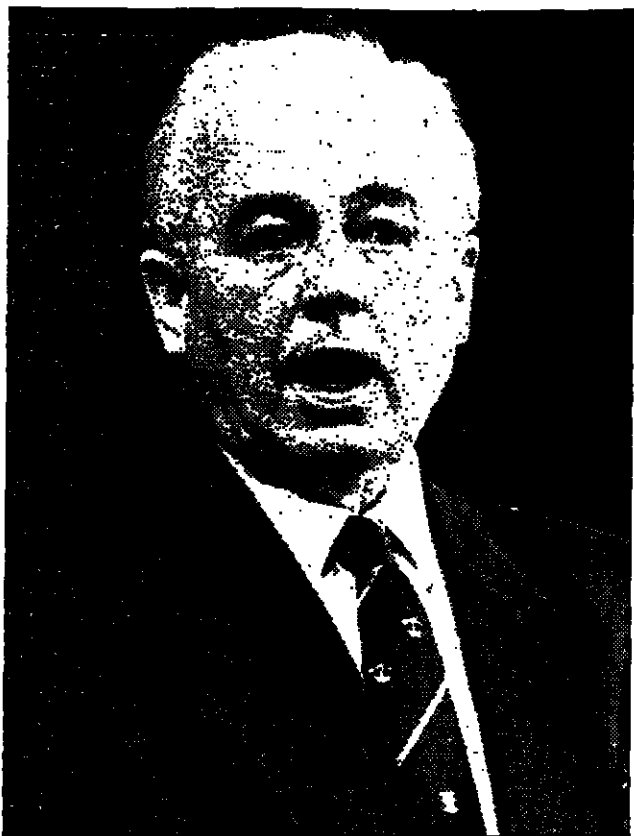
The decision to snub the minister — a Labour Home Secretary was given the same treatment 13 years ago — was taken in a private session of conference by delegates irate about policing policies and the way the Home Office has overridden proposed new housing allowances.

In sharp contrast, the federation gave its chairman, Mr Alan Eastwood, a stand-

ing ovation lasting several minutes after a speech in which he accused the Government of betrayal by undermining morale. He told the Home Secretary: "It is time to speak up for Britain's bobbies. Mr Waddington, Mrs Thatcher, we ask you: what price loyalty?"

As silence then settled, the minister lightly noted that the conference had a tradition of not applauding home secretaries, which was good because it meant everyone could get to lunch earlier. He then declared that it was time for the police to stop complaining and to recognize how well off they had become.

Fledgling continued government support, Mr Waddington said that since 1979, spending in the police had risen by 59 per cent over and above inflation. Pay had increased by 41 per cent. "That is the price of loyalty," he told the conference. Police strength



Voice in the darkness: Mr David Waddington's speech to the Police Federation was greeted with determined impassiveness in a protest over government "disloyalty"



had risen from 109,000 in 1977 to 126,000 this year.

"This Government's consistent and constant support for the police since 1979 has changed the picture overwhelmingly for the better and I have to say you know it," the Home Secretary said. But no home secretary could give the police everything. Proposals for housing allowances put forward after arbitration had to be turned down. Last year,

London officers received an increase of 57 per cent and in Warwickshire the rise was 67 per cent, which bore no relation to the true rise in living costs. Changes had been made after calls from the federation but nothing more could be done. It was time to accept the situation and get on with other things.

In a speech promoted as an outline of policy, Mr Waddington ruled out any ques-

tion of turning to an officer class or of a national or regional policing system, but he did not rule out amalgamations of smaller forces.

Speeches by home secretaries are usually applauded at appreciated points and end with an ovation. Mr Waddington sat down to silence.

He later continued to defend his decisions on police housing, noting that young officers in London could be

earning £20,000, including substantial allowances which were not taxed.

In his speech, Mr Eastwood told the conference: "When morale is attacked by those who have a duty to maintain it at the highest possible level, the only suitable word that comes to mind is betrayal." Thirteen years ago protest had led to the Edmund-Davies report on pay and conditions. The Government talked about

the improvements of the past decade, but others have done equally well — including politicians and ministers. MPs were not finding difficulties in recruiting and were generously treated.

"It's a bit rich to try and justify what has been done to us on the grounds the police are overpaid," he said. No one worried about police pay when officers were called in to take over from striking prison

officers or ambulance drivers. After the speeches, Mr Eastwood disputed some of the Home Secretary's figures, saying the federation would not give up its fight on the issue of allowances but would look to Parliament and a judicial review. If all else failed, future conferences might well talk of becoming a proper trade union.

Legal changes, page 12

London failing to win crime battle

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

POLICE and London's citizens are failing to win the battle against crime in the capital, according to figures released yesterday. They show that recorded offences have risen by 36 per cent since 1979, while clear-up rates have slipped from 20 per cent to 17 per cent.

In publishing the Metropolitan Police's 1989 report Sir Peter Imbert, the force's commissioner, said that his staff had achieved a record "output". Arrests and detection rates stood at historically high levels, along with calls for assistance. More officers had been put on the beat.

Close reading, however, of the report shows that Sir Peter was anxious to put the best gloss on the difficulties a rising crime rate is placing on his force. An overview of London crime statistics in the report shows that the overall clear-up rate was higher at the start of the Second World War than last year. In 1939, 26 per cent of the 94,600 offences recorded were solved, compared with 17 per cent of the 716,500 offences recorded in 1989.

A crime which is cleared up is defined by police as one where a suspect is either charged, cautioned or summoned. It also applies to offences taken into consideration by courts when sentencing crimes committed by juveniles under the age of criminal responsibility and offences admitted by prisoners.

The ability of the police to clear-up around a quarter of recorded crimes stayed constant between 1939 and the mid-1970s, according to the overview, but seems to have dipped in the late 1970s. In 1979 only 20 per cent of the 557,400 recorded offences were solved.

Detection rates for most of the main crime categories deteriorated between 1979 and 1989, the only exceptions have been sexual crimes.

Crimes cleared up

	1979 %	1989 %
Violence against the person	55	59
Sexual offences	52	57
Robbery	23	15
Burglary and going equipped	12	9
Theft and handling stolen goods	20	15
Fraud and forgery	50	43
Criminal damage	14	12
Other	60	54
Total	20	17

*After 1989 this group includes gross indecency with a child. †After 1989 this group includes trafficking in controlled drugs.

Prison officer attacks 'Maggie's boot boys'

A PRISON officer yesterday accused police of being "Maggie's boot boys" and urged them to refuse to act as strike breakers.

Mr Terry McLaren, Wandsworth branch secretary of the Prison Officers' Association, criticized the role of police during the recent ambulance dispute. Mr McLaren, a Conservative Party member, told the association's annual conference in Portsmouth: "It's high time police officers developed some spine, stood up to the Government and said 'We are no longer going to

be your boot boys'." Later he added: "The police really should not intervene in what are, after all, legitimate industrial disputes."

Mr McLaren, who last year led prison officers during a dispute at Wandsworth when police took control of the south London jail, also accused police officers of heavy-handed treatment of strikers and pickets. "It started with the miners' strike when police really were seen as Maggie's boot boys and we've seen it with other disputes since — at Wapping, for example."

Housing a constant source of friction

HOUSING allowances, one of the main issues causing friction between the police and the Government, is likely to continue to dog the relationship for some time to come (Stewart Tandler writes).

Police have a rent allowance calculated roughly on the rent of a standard house in their force's area plus an element included for rates. They have also received compensation for tax paid on the allowance.

The system was reviewed recently and went to arbitrators, who suggested a housing allowance that would also go to officers living in police homes. Those officers had been living free but would now pay rent. All officers would pay the poll tax, and the housing allowance would be reviewed based on a formula including the retail price index and house prices in bands across the country.

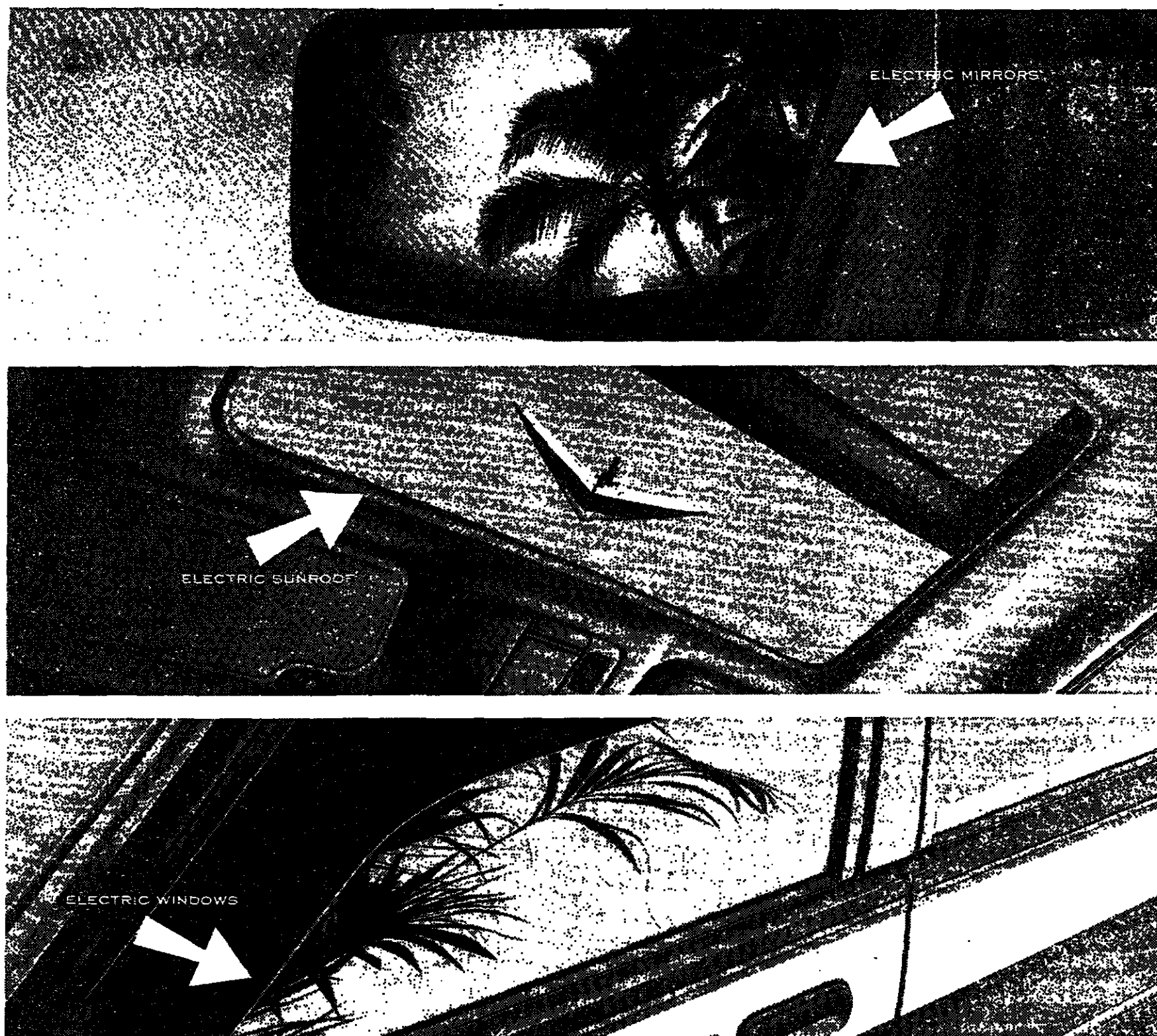
The Home Office turned down the arbitration although the police say that could be done only for reasons of the "national interest" under agreements. The Home Office has made some concessions but is insisting overall that serving officers will continue to get their money as at present, but it will not be increased until the new allowance system catches up with it.

The new system will apply to new officers. The formula for the housing element will be based on the old rent allowance but without the money that was included for rates or the cash to offset taxation. Increases will be based only on the RPI and reviewed every two years. Officers in police houses will get nothing.

Workers in other emergency services have no housing allowance. Firemen are provided with free uniforms and can claim medical allowances for certain prescriptions and treatment. They are able to have medical charges incurred at work reimbursed, if those are covered under the National Health Service Act of 1977. A fireman, on an average salary of £13,125 after four years' service, must pay nearly 11 per cent of his wages into a pension fund. Lower-ranking firemen must retire at 55.

Ambulance workers receive free uniforms and travel allowances. In London, the travel allowance is about £1,300 a year and is added on to salaries. The Department of Health said hospital doctors and nurses receive no allowances for medical care or accommodation. Nurses are charged for their lodgings by the National Health Service.

WHAT HAS THE NEW MONTEGO LX GOT OVER THE COMPETITION? (HERE ARE A FEW POINTERS.)

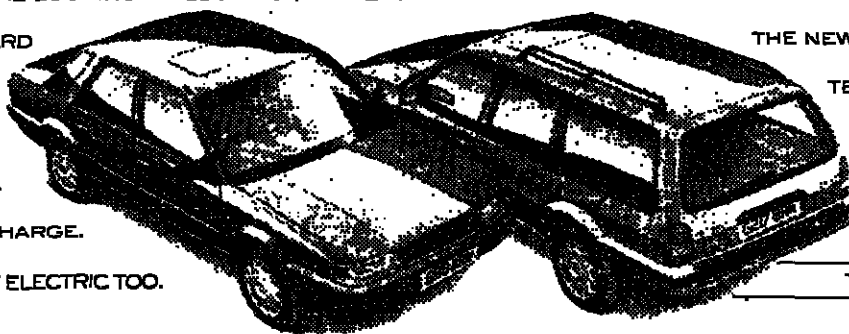


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Curriculum 'won't solve literacy problems'

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

LEGALLY enforced tests of children's ability to read and write, as demanded by the Government through the National Curriculum, are unlikely to improve the literacy of at least one million teenagers who say they have difficulty in reading and writing using correct spelling.

Mr Alan Wells, director of the government-financed Adult Literacy and Basic Skills Unit (Albsu), says: "It is not enough to know what is wrong with an individual child. We must know how to put it right. Most teachers can tell you what is wrong, what we need to know is how we can put it right."

Mr Wells, a former teacher, emphasized that the findings should not be taken as proving there were more illiterate teen-

agers now than in the recent past. He said: "It would be easy to blame the schools but children are affected by their parents, even employers. There are older people coming to our units taught by traditional methods."

Mr Wells said a survey of 1,000 people aged between 16 and 20, published yesterday, which showed that one in four young people in England and Wales admitted to having reading problems and more than one-third had difficulty with spelling, should not be used to give a national picture of illiteracy.

The figures from the limited survey, where people were asked to judge their own literacy level, suggested that one million people aged under 20 were finding it difficult to read and write. The latest figures show that about 300,000 adults are completely illiterate. The survey did show, however, that unemployed young people had more difficulty in filling job application forms. One in four of the unemployed said they could not fill forms.

The problem facing Albsu is that 45 per cent of those interviewed said they did not know there were classes where they could learn to read and write and one-third said they did not want to learn.

Mr Wells said: "It would be too simple to blame the schools for failing to teach children how to read and write. If it was just them we could solve the problem."

"There is a mixture of reasons, parents who do not motivate their children to read, homes where there are no books and sometimes, it has to be said, bad teaching. There are older people in our teaching units who also have difficulty in reading and spelling and who have been taught by traditional methods. They cannot read either."

The inability to read and write fluently was felt most by the unemployed. A quarter said they were unable to fill in job application forms. Nearly half - 43 per cent - said they never read books while 99.1 per cent said they read newspapers or magazines.

If the figures of this survey were spread nationally it would mean that nearly a million 16 to 20-year-olds have difficulties with reading while 1.5 million face difficulties with spelling.

The Department of Education last night said the sample was small and relied on "self-reporting". "The National Curriculum will, when it comes through, deal with a lot of these problems. It has measures to improve writing and reading skills," the department said.

Mr John Sutton, general secretary of the Secondary Heads' Association, said National Curriculum tests for 14 year olds were complex and time-consuming but external testing would be welcome.

He told a regional SHA meeting in Redbridge, north-east London: "Standards in the core subjects may be externally moderated if necessary and guidelines on assessment techniques can be offered. Any more than that would impose an impossible burden on pupils and teachers alike. At all costs, let us avoid mad examination disease."

Helicopter airlifts a mountain footpath

ASADOUR GUTUEAN



A helicopter flying in part of a consignment of 120 tonnes of industrial sandstone to a mountain top in the Yorkshire Dales yesterday to repair a footpath worn away by hill walkers. In more than 100 sorties, the aircraft ferried one-tonne loads of hardcore allowing workers to lay down more than 30 yards of refurbished footpath an hour (Ronald Faux writes). Pressure from 120,000 pairs of boots a year heading for Ingleborough summit, a popular viewpoint, had transformed the track across Little Ingleborough into a quagmire more than 30ft wide. Specialists from the Yorkshire Dales National Park experimented with a number of solutions and decided to lay a bedding of geotextile buried beneath the tonnes of sandstone, creating the illusion of a natural footpath. The airlift is part of an £800,000 experimental programme in the Three Peaks area, which the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology has described as having one of the worst eroded footpaths in the United Kingdom.

Solicitors move to limit top judges' veto power

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A MOVE to stop senior judges exercising a power of veto that would restrict the opening up of the higher courts to solicitors is expected in the Commons today.

An amendment promoted by the Law Society has been tabled to the Courts and Legal Services Bill, now in committee, which would reduce the proposed role of the senior judges under the legal reforms to a consultative one.

The society says that the issue of lawyers' rights of audience - which lawyer can appear in what court - determines public access to the courts. "That is such a fundamental matter that it must be for Parliament, rather than the judges, to have the final say," the society says, should have a voice, but not a veto.

Guide to legal fees gets chilly welcome

THE Bar yesterday was reeling from the news that a publisher proposes to push the profession into the next century with a guide that will list barristers' fees, famous cases and hobbies (Frances Gibb writes).

The guide, like a legal version of *Who's Who*, is from the Havers family stable and is believed to have the support of the former Lord Chancellor, Lord Havers. It has already run up against the conservatism of the profession, and barristers at a number of London chambers were angry at the prospect of being made to disclose charging rates and other details not generally in the public domain.

The publishers of the guide said they had taken an "aggressive" approach and barristers who do not comply with the questionnaire asking for specified details on charging rates will be listed in the guide as having declined to do so. Yesterday Mr Nicholas

Purnell, QC, chairman of the Criminal Bar Association, said: "This is an interesting bit of private enterprise but I am not prepared to be dragged into giving information for commercial reasons."

Although the Bar's code of conduct permits barristers to publicize charging rates, only one set has done so. It also permits mention of cases in chambers' brochures with the client's permission, but few have taken advantage of this. The directory invited barristers to "blow their own trumpet." Mr Purnell said: "But the Bar has traditionally been a referral profession. Barristers rely for their reputation on their professional clients." Mr Nicholas Stewart, QC, a member of the Bar Council, said yesterday that though he did not think the Bar would co-operate, his chambers, the only one to have disclosed fees, had no objection to giving that kind of information.

In the Government's parallel legal reforms proposed in Scotland, a different mechanism is planned by which solicitors will acquire wider rights of audience, which will not involve judges, "keeping them clear of any disputes between the two branches of the profession," the society says.

TUC offers its own credit card

By TIM JONES, EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE TUC yesterday planted its feet irrevocably in the capitalist camp by launching a credit card as part of its strategy of maintaining and improving membership of the union movement.

Introducing the card, which has a potentially large market of more than six million users, Mr Norman Willis, general secretary of the TUC, said: "The credit card is particularly important because it is a modern benefit and a highly visible one. It shows our members and potential members that the unions are moving with the times, and utilizing - dare I say exploiting - the financial system to their benefit."

The card will be promoted "unashamedly and deliberately" as being exclusively for trade union members and is designed to appeal to trade union loyalty. Mr Willis said the movement recognized the growing concern about easy and excessive credit which could lead to bad debt. To combat this, lower paid members could acquire a card which would have a small credit limit. "This will still be a useful amount - a good few tankfuls of petrol, for example - but a restraint on overspending and bad debt."

One big attraction of the card, which can be used as easily as any other credit card, is there will be no annual fee. It also offers a very competitive rate of interest. At present the new TUC/Unity Credit Card will have an annual percentage rate 3.5 per cent lower than the TSB TrustCard and 2 per cent lower than Midland Access.

The card has been developed by the TUC with Unity Financial Services, part of the trade union owned Unity Trust Bank group and is a MasterCard issued by the Bank of Scotland.



Mr Norman Willis with a giant version of the card

Virus may be a missing link to Aids

By THOMSON PRENTICE SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

IMPORTANT new insights into the origins of the Aids virus have emerged with the discovery of a very similar organism in chimpanzees in Gabon, west equatorial Africa.

Researchers believe it may represent a missing link between the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) - which causes Aids - and infections in some species of monkeys. The new virus is much more closely related to HIV-1, the most common form of the Aids virus, than any of the related organisms previously detected in monkeys.

Details of the findings are published in today's issue of *Nature*. An article says they represent "the most significant clues to date" on the origins of HIV.

Scientists from the Pasteur Institute in Paris and an international research centre in Gabon identified the new virus in two chimpanzees; they found it corresponded closely with all the proteins of HIV-1. The overall genetic organization of the two viruses was the same and the researchers believe the chimpanzee organism is a distinct sub-type. They suggest that there is a larger pool of related viruses among primates than previously suspected.

A commentary in *Nature* says there have been two possibilities for the origins of HIV-1. The virus may always have been present in humans but gone unrecognized. According to this theory, human migration, extensive travel, sexual promiscuity and the re-use of syringes and hypodermic needles could have triggered its spread.

Alternatively, the infection may have entered the human population by transmission from another species. African green monkeys and other primates have been found to have their own immunodeficiency viruses but these are regarded as distant relatives of the human version.

Scientists have speculated that people became infected through being bitten or scratched by monkeys, or by eating them. The latest findings suggest that HIV may have evolved from the chimpanzee virus, which in turn resulted from infection by monkeys. However, hundreds of captive chimpanzees have been examined and none has been found to be naturally infected with the agent.

The new discovery does not provide a final solution to HIV's origins, says *Nature*, but adds to the "fascinating molecular-genetic game" of unravelling them.

Hospital consultants yesterday urged the Government to provide £10 million towards treating thousands of kidney patients with a new drug which can dramatically improve their condition.

Only about one in five patients are being given the drug, erythropoietin (EPO), because of its high price. A year's treatment costs up to £5,000 and specialists are having to ration its use.

Earlier this week the Department of Health licensed the drug but refuses to provide central funding for it. It has told regional health authorities they must pay for it from their existing budgets.

Science and Technology, pages 33-36

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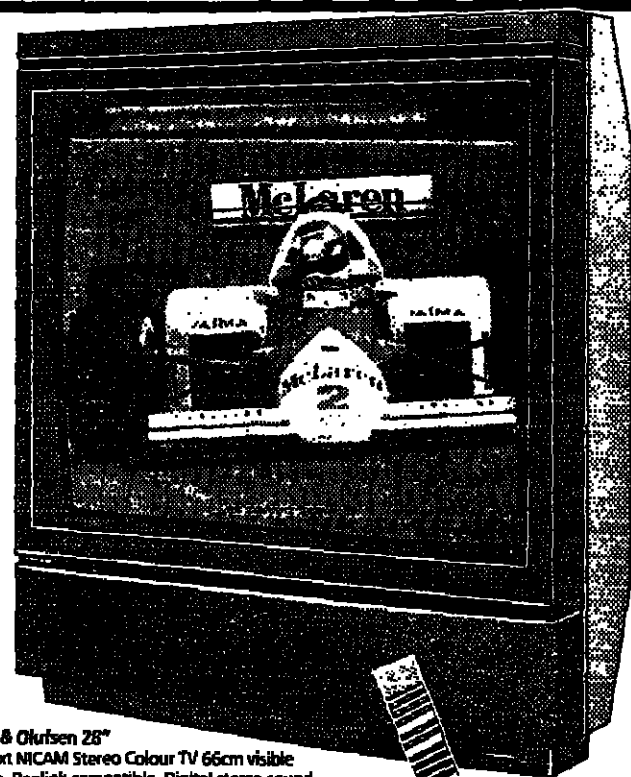
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Chief Rabbi urges training to prepare for marriage

By KERRY GILL

LORD Jakobovits, the Chief Rabbi, yesterday suggested that couples should undergo a form of training to prepare them for the potential pitfalls of marriage when he addressed the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

In his speech, the first by a Chief Rabbi to the assembly, Lord Jakobovits said that the coming decade posed greater challenges to religion than ever before.

Citing the present parlous condition of marriage, he said: "The family has become a disaster area. Its widespread breakdown exacts a higher social and economic cost by fuelling crime, and drugs and drink addiction, than any Aids epidemic. Perhaps we should insist on pre-marital training before we issue marriage licences."

Lord Jakobovits said: "We need to intensify the reverence for human life before birth by respect for the embryo and before death by opposing euthanasia, if the horror of violence and murder is to make our society safer."

"The challenge is to turn the aim of life from having a good time into making the times good. Religion must play a key

role in this regeneration for the betterment of the human condition," he said. Lord Jakobovits also expressed the grief of Jews at the present troubles in the Middle East.

The assembly called on the Government to reconsider hastily community charge legislation to help the poor and also to overturn its recent decision to freeze child benefit. The Rev Norman Shanks, convener of the church and nation committee, which presented a report on social deprivation, said poverty and the ever-widening gap between the rich and the poor was "an offence to our national conscience".

Mr Shanks said that the church had to break free of all political ideologies whether of the right or left. "Alarmist statements about the hijacking of the Kirk by the political left must be exposed for the tendentious and ridiculous nonsense they are," he said.

"The existence of poverty, the widening gap between those who are well off and those who are excluded from so much that the rest enjoy is an offence to our national conscience and we in the church shall be judged by our

response." The assembly said that the Church should ask the Government to bring income support into line with family credit by disregarding child allowances when calculating benefit levels.

One minister, the Rev Gordon McCracken, said the assembly should support the abolition of child benefit to all families and, instead, redirect money to families that were genuinely in need. Many recipients of benefit did not need allowances, he said.

The Kirk gave full backing to the fight to save the Ravenscraig steel complex at Motherwell after a lengthy debate in which ministers said closure would have a devastating effect on Scottish industry.

The Rev Alexander Lawson said: "Twenty-five per cent of the population of the west of Scotland are employed in industry, where steel is the primary raw concern. Experts estimate that at least 15,000 jobs will disappear if Ravenscraig closes." He said that while the steel industry had been neglected in Scotland, almost £400 million had been invested in England. Canon Kenyon Wright urged the Church to voice its support.

Brooke strategy paves the way for Ulster inter-party talks

By EDWARD GORMAN
IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE leaders of Northern Ireland's unionist community are now closer to opening talks with their nationalist counterparts than at any time in the past four and a half years, a senior Unionist politician said yesterday.

Mr Peter Robinson, deputy leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, an avowed devotee of Unionist records, said Ulster was now "well on the way" to inter-party negotiations. He said the province was closer to talks than at any stage since the signing of the Anglo-Irish Agreement in 1985.

Mr Robinson's upbeat assessment in

Belfast came in the wake of the latest round of negotiations between Mr Peter Brooke, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and the two Unionist leaders, Mr James Molyneux, of the Ulster Unionist Party, and Mr Ian Paisley, of the DUP, in London on Tuesday.

Those talks ended with what observers regarded as an extraordinary display of contentment on the part of Mr Molyneux and Mr Paisley, who described themselves "well satisfied" with the outcome. Mr Molyneux also talked of a "real prospect of success" and hinted that he had made some headway on the Unionist demand that the Anglo-Irish Secretariat at Maryfield outside Belfast, which serves the Anglo-Irish Conference, be suspended. Yesterday Mr

Molyneux hinted further, in a brief statement, that he and Mr Paisley may now be reaching the end of the exploratory round of talks and were preparing to enter the next phase of bilateral exchanges with the Secretary of State. "We have reached the final meeting in the series and are well satisfied with the result," it said.

However, with all parties to the process including the Irish Government maintaining a strict silence yesterday — itself regarded as highly significant — political circles in Northern Ireland were speculating on what exactly happened in London. Since Mr Brooke began this process in January, with the ultimate aim of securing inter-party talks in Ulster on a future devolved administra-

tion, he has accommodated in turn two pre-conditions laid down by the Unionists. First, he declared publicly that the Government was prepared to consider an alternative to the Anglo-Irish Agreement and second, he agreed that the normal summer gap between meetings of the conference could be defined in advance and utilized as an opportunity to open negotiations.

The stumbling block until Tuesday was the third Unionist demand for a suspension of the workings of the Secretariat, a concession on which the Social Democratic and Labour Party and Dublin are reluctant to give ground because they believe that to do so would be to give the impression that the agreement itself is in jeopardy. Some

observers were speculating that Mr Brooke had made an offer to Mr Molyneux and Mr Paisley in London which largely satisfied the spirit of their pre-condition even if it fell short of a complete suspension of the Secretariat.

For example, Mr Brooke may have offered, presumably with prior agreement from Dublin, to redeploy one civil servant each from the four-strong Irish and British contingents at Maryfield, while at the same time offering publicly to declare that article 3 of the Anglo-Irish Agreement, which defines the role of the Secretariat, is put on ice during the period that any talks are in progress.

Other observers suggested that the Unionists may even be preparing the ground publicly for a possible collapse of

the process, which they will seek to distance themselves from and blame on the intransigence of Mr Brooke and/or Dublin and the SDLP over their insistence that the Secretariat be suspended. Mr Brooke has impressed politicians of all shades of opinion in Ireland with his careful persistence. As one nationalist politician put it: "He's got the Whiteside touch."

Mr Brooke will now consult the SDLP and Dublin before proceeding. Mr Molyneux is a convinced integrationist and Mr Paisley will not share power. These are points of principle which do not sit easily with the Government's overall ambition of creating a new devolved government in Northern Ireland.

MPs want fraud check on £8bn jobs training fund

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

GOVERNMENT payments totalling £8.8 billion towards running training schemes for the young and unemployed are open to fraud, the Commons public accounts committee said yesterday.

The MPs said that the checks on how managing agents handle public funds fall short even of the Department of Employment's minimum standards and no proper records are kept of known and suspected fraud. The committee was told of suspected cases of corrupt transactions involving false wage claims worth more than £375,000 by those running the projects.

After investigating the training schemes it said: "Financial monitoring was not always accorded high priority and there was a lack of adequately trained staff, with the result that monitoring was frequently not of sufficient depth to substantiate the accuracy of agents' claims. There

are also serious shortcomings in the adequacy and accuracy of some managing agents' records."

After examining training schemes operated by 5,000 managing agents for nearly 700,000 young people and unemployed adults, the committee also expressed dismay at the low number of trainees who went on to find the jobs they had been trained to do on government-sponsored schemes.

For example, only 32 per cent of those training in building and construction work found jobs in that sector between May 1986 and April 1988. The department's latest figures, however, showed that about 86 per cent of those completing Youth Training Scheme got jobs and 64 per cent received qualifications.

The cross-party committee said: "We recognize that well thought-out schemes of training should provide fun-

damental skills that are not too narrowly focused, but we are not convinced that the number of trainees obtaining jobs in sectors other than those for which they have been trained is necessarily a fair reflection on the training provided."

"Thus, while we acknowledge that there have been recent improvements, we remain concerned at the relatively low numbers of trainees who enter occupations related to their training. We consider that one major measure of the success of the department's training schemes should be the extent to which they have provided employers with skilled workers."

A 1988 departmental review found wide variations in the competence and qualifications of managers who were given responsibility for running the training schemes, with many work-place supervisors having little knowledge of the Youth Training Scheme's objectives. But after the initial teething problems, the committee welcomed improvements and hoped it would result in a big rise in trainees receiving qualifications.

"The department acknowledged that ensuring the competence of trainers was a problem in an important area and one where they had started weakly but were becoming very much stronger," the report said.

Only 25 applicants from potential trainers out of 3,184 were rejected. In addition, the department added that half the applicants were given only provisional training status until they improved their standards. A further 166 later withdrew their applications.

The department is setting up 61 accredited training centres across the country, costing about £8 million a year, for instructing the trainers and supervisors. In spite of assurances from officials, the committee called for more regular inspection visits to check on the standard of training being given under the Government's schemes.

The committee also criticized the lack of a "good intelligence system" in many area training offices about the local jobs available. If a proper overview was carried out, training could be more closely geared to local and national skill shortages.

The new Training and Enterprise Councils will have a soundly based labour market information system to contact. In evidence to the committee, however, department officials said that firms considered their employment needs for only nine to 12 months ahead while the department had to consider equipping young people for a proper career.

The committee discloses that fees are sometimes paid to training managers even when a trainee does not turn up. It complains that details are not kept about unfilled places.

Provision of Training through Managing Agents: Committee of Public Accounts 15th report, Department of Employment (Stationery Office, £7.15)



Perched on a bale of straw and bearing a pitchfork, a rustic Mr David Trippier, Minister of State for the Environment and Countryside, sits outside the environment department's unlovely building in Marsham Street, central London, yesterday to publicize Countryside Week next month

Maguire tests were done by trainee of 18

By RAY CLANCY

A TRAINEE who had just left school carried out sensitive forensic tests which led to the conviction and imprisonment of Mrs Annie Maguire and six others, the inquiry into their cases was told yesterday.

The results of the tests for explosives carried out by Mr David Wyndham at a forensic laboratory in Woolwich, south-east London, were so positive that even the chief scientist was surprised, the third day of the inquiry, headed by Sir John May, was told.

Mr Douglas Higgs, the principal scientific officer in charge of forensic science at the Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment, where swabs from the Maguires and their house were taken for examination, said the 18-year-old would not have been given the job unless he was capable.

He told the inquiry that Mr Walter Elliott, one of the main prosecution witnesses at the Maguire trial in 1976 and the chemist in charge at the time, would have taken the decision as to who would carry out the tests. Mr Elliott has since died.

Mr Higgs added that at least two senior people would have looked at the tests, which involved comparing samples of suspect swabs with standard samples of four explosives, including nitro-glycerine, the compound widely used by the IRA in the 1970s.

During the tests the operator would look for pink spots appearing at the same speed and density as those of the explosive samples. The swabs taken from the Maguires had shown more spots than had ever been seen before at the laboratory, Mr Higgs said. "Never before had we

seen so many positive on a plate at a reasonably high level of intensity. We just didn't believe it, quite honestly. I have a distinct memory of all those spots and their strength relative to the standard sample. My view at the time was that they contained an appreciable amount of nitro-glycerine."

Asked if it had been possible to double check the tests Mr Higgs said that all the swabs had been used in the original test. "You would have had to decide whether to sub-divide and possibly lose all trace or take a chance and use all and get a firm reaction," Mr Higgs said. "That was a tactical working decision that had to be taken by the operator." (Mr Wyndham)

Mr Higgs, who retired in 1982, told the inquiry that at the time of the trial he knew of a possibility that other substances could mimic the nitro-glycerine test. He said he was aware of 42,000 compounds of which 1,050 were nitro compounds "which could conceivably give rise to a positive reaction."

He disclosed that in the run-up to the Maguire trial he asked Mr Wyndham to test 200 of them but the vast majority of the compounds were "very obscure" and several had to be made up specially, so he did not feel they could have given rise to positive tests.

The inquiry into the convictions of Mrs Maguire, her husband Patrick, sons Vincent and Patrick, Mrs Maguire's brother Sean Smith, her husband's brother-in-law, Mr Giuseppe Conlon, who died in prison, and Mr Patrick O'Neill, a family friend, continues today.

Scots workers 'on lowest pay'

By a STAFF REPORTER

LOW pay in Scotland is increasing, with almost half the employees in the region earning less than the threshold figure of £4.16 an hour or £157 a week. According to the first annual report of the Scottish Low Pay Unit presented in Edinburgh yesterday, if overtime is included the level of low pay "reaches frightening proportions with more than half of them below the threshold for a 37.7-hour week."

Workers are, says the report, "being illegally underpaid but are too afraid of victimization or dismissal to make a complaint against their bosses". The report states that at 33.6 per cent, Scotland is the region with the highest proportion of low paid full-time workers in Britain.

Commenting on the report, Miss Morag Gillespie, the director of the unit, said: "The steady stream of inquiries to the unit has revealed that many workers find themselves in an increasingly vulnerable position. It is totally unacceptable that any workers should feel unable to pursue their legal rights for the want of basic employment protection."

Many of the new jobs being created in the country are in sectors where low pay and poor conditions are commonplace.

Instances of low pay given in the report include a single parent with three children who was working as a cook for £1.98 an hour. She commented: "After I have paid all the bills I cannot even afford shoes for myself."

A security guard on a building site said: "Over the weekend I only get four hours' sleep so by Monday I'm dead. For that I get the princely sum of £1.25 an hour." A relief janitor, aged 52, earning £73.60 for a 40-hour week, said: "I am a registered disabled person. One of my duties is conveying toxic waste on a trolley, including ether and cyanide. I wasn't given any protective clothing, I had to buy it myself."

Another security guard, earning £1.83 an hour for 12-hour shifts — day and night — said: "When complaints are made regarding pay you are told that 'if you don't like it, leave — we can always get someone to do your job'."

Feast of modern art to grace British Library

THE new British Library at St Pancras launched an ambitious £1 million contemporary art scheme yesterday whereby it will be festooned with the art of the 90s (Sarah Jane Checkland writes).

More than a hundred locations within the library, which is due to open in 1993, will be chosen. Mr Michael Smithurst, chairman of the project's selection committee, said: "We want to share with our visitors the splendid collection of art bequeathed to us by earlier generations, as well as seeking out the finest talents

of our own generation."

The Scottish-Italian sculptor Eduardo Paolozzi has already been commissioned to do a large bronze statue of Sir Isaac Newton, which will grace a piazza. The entrance hall will have a huge tapestry taken from a painting by the American-British artist R.B. Kitaj inspired by a number of literary and artistic works.

The committee is approaching groups of artists for their ideas for other sites. Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts, has promised support for joint incentive funding.

Provision of Training through Managing Agents: Committee of Public Accounts 15th report, Department of Employment (Stationery Office, £7.15)

Slimbridge £6m visitor centre plan

A VISITOR centre, costing £6 million, set amid two new lakes is being planned by the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust at its headquarters in Slimbridge, Gloucestershire. The trust has applied to Stroud District Council for planning permission for the project, which includes a 60ft observation tower.

Dr Brian Bertram, trust director, said yesterday that work could start next summer if planning consent is granted. He said the founder of the trust, the late Sir Peter Scott, wanted an observation tower which could be used by the disabled and elderly. "He wanted everyone to be able to get up high, as he often did in his own tower, and have a bird's eye view of the trust grounds, the Severn estuary and the birds themselves," Dr Bertram said.

The new development would involve creating two new lakes, one between the new arrivals centre and the car park. Dr Bertram said: "If we can get the planning permission and the funding we can start work on site here early next summer and be in occupation in the middle of 1993."

Sweet life beats Gibraltar's apes

By JOHN HILL

THE years of peace and package holidays have not been kind to the apes on the Rock of Gibraltar. They muddled through wars and epidemics in an endearingly British way, but overfeeding by tourists has finally demoralized them.

Sated by Smarties and other disastrously addictive treats, the 21-strong Queen's Gate troop is being retired to a warden's park set up on heights above the town at a cost of around £100,000. From next week visitors will pay 50p to see these pillars of the old imperial order.

The end of their free-foraging life opens a new chapter in the lively history of the Rock's misnamed apes — they are large tail-less monkeys prop-

erly called Barbary macaques — which goes back at least to Nelson's time.

Since 1915 they have been on the roll of the British Army and maintained by it with varying degrees of success. But the Queen's Gate troop, unlike the more remote one at Middle Hill, has always been in the front line of confrontation with people. However, their control now passes to the Gibraltar government.

Dr John Fa, the Gibraltarian director of the park, said: "From the opening of the frontier with Spain in 1984, the apes' situation grew steadily more serious. Three and a half million people a year now come to Gibraltar and many feed them the chocolates and other sweets

they love. The animals are often addicted and obese, with the result that the birth rate has fallen. A male will leave a female on heat to get his supply of Smarties. Degraded individuals lose interest in mating and fight over food. As a result, the population has fallen from 130 to 70."

The yellowish-green apes also bite the hands that feed them. Injuries to visitors have risen from one or two a year to about 70, mostly in summer when the animals are accompanied by young.

A less sugary regimen, mainly of food pellets such as those served at London Zoo, will restore more orderly conduct, Dr Fa believes. Legend holds that if the apes ever leave the Rock then so will the

British: it seems to date from the Great Siege of 1783 when their alarm bark was said to have alerted the garrison to an attack by the Spaniards.

Earlier records refer to "game from Barbary" being imported, probably to be hunted by bored members of the garrison. Macaques were found in southern Europe at the time of the last Ice Age, but if any were in Gibraltar they left no fossils behind. Moorish chroniclers did not mention them as being present.

In North Africa the endangered species has lost much of the cedar and holm oak forest that is its natural habitat, and the International Primate Protection League has endorsed the Gibraltar park project.

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Fairclough Homes

Conservative fails to find support for his roof tax Bill

AS THE National Executive Committee of the Labour Party approved its policy, document yesterday, a Conservative MP made a tongue-in-cheek attempt to hijack one of its reported key proposals — the roof tax.

But his Bill to bring in a version of the tax received no backing and Mr Dennis Skinner, a former chairman of the Labour Party, denied that it was among Labour's plans. "We killed it long before the Tories played their little game today", he told the House.

Mr Neil Hamilton (Tatton, C), seeking to bring in the Roof Tax Bill under the 10-minute rule procedure, denied rumours that he was being unserious or frivolous and that what he was proposing was a "spoof tax". He was being most serious in seeking

to advance democratic debate and provide alternatives for people to choose between.

No one voted for it, however, and leave was refused by 119 votes to nil.

Mr Hamilton said that, because the Labour Party was out of practice in introducing legislation into the House, he had decided to distil his wisdom of the past 12 years and give the Opposition an opportunity to introduce the flagships of their local government proposals.

The Opposition had resolved to change the community charge as soon as it was returned to office, Mr Brian Gould, chief Opposition spokesman on the environment, had said so on many occasions.

He had written to Mr Gould asking for his assistance in drafting the Bill

and for a meeting to discuss tactics, but that had been refused.

Mr Gould had recently moved from his constituency of Dagenham to a flat in the former servants' quarters of an eighteenth-century manor in Moreton-in-the-Marsh. His move was understandable since a roof tax would mean a £711 charge in his constituency compared with the £278 community charge.

In Scotland, there were blocks of flats which had been given a negative valuation. Presumably with a roof tax, residents would be paid to live there. Would the Speaker, residing in the Palace of Westminster, have to put up bed and breakfast signs to meet his enormous roof tax?

It would be simple to avoid the tax of course — by removing the roof.

That would reduce the value of the property considerably.

Mr Edward Leigh (Gainsborough and Horncastle, C), opposing the Bill, said that it was singularly ill conceived.

If he did not know Mr Hamilton better he would have suspected him of consulting Mr Bryan Gould. Mr Hamilton was an unlikely champion of socialism. Only this week, he had espied him at a society wedding wearing spats and carrying a silver-topped cane.

Mr Hamilton may have brought the proposal forward in a mischievous tone, but it was a serious issue.

How could a tax based on the capital value of a house be fair if the taxpayer — such as a tenant — had no

interest in that value? The proposal was riddled with inconsistencies and fundamentally flawed.

Labour's tax would be on individuals or households. Only Labour would produce a tax and then not say who would pay it.

The whole thing was a diversion from what they should be discussing: not the nature of local government tax, but that too much was being charged. Roof tax was a mere smokescreen.

After the result of the division had been announced, Mr Neil Bennett (Pembroke, C) said that Mr Skinner had voted against the Bill. As a roof tax was Labour policy, he should explain his action.

Mr Skinner (Bolsover, Lab) said

that the NEC had never discussed the roof tax. What had taken place was based on a figment of the imagination.

Earlier, the Conservative owner of a roofless old mill sought ministerial advice on whether he should replace that roof. He was told, however, that he should address his question to the proposers of the roof tax — the Labour Party.

Mr Roger Knapman (Stroud, C) said that the roof of his old mill had fallen in 10 years ago. "Should I repair it or leave it as it is?"

Mr Michael Portillo, Minister for Local Government and Inner Cities, said that it was up to the Labour Party to supply the details of its roof tax, and particularly, to explain who would pay it.

Haemophiliacs need urgent help, Thatcher told

MRS Thatcher was urged yesterday to appoint a highly respected lawyer to reach an urgent out-of-court settlement with HIV victims who have caught the infection through contaminated blood and blood products

HIV INFECTION

administered by the National Health Service.

Speaking during a wide-ranging debate in the Commons, Mr Alfred Morris, Manchester, Wythenshawe, Lab) said that many of the victims had died and many others had scant prospect of living to see a court settlement of their claims.

He had suggested to the Prime Minister that she might follow the precedent he had set as Minister for the Disabled in the 1970s when he appointed the late Sir Alan Marre to undertake an inquiry into the Thalidomide dispute. At that time Sir Alan had recently retired from the office of Ombudsman. His report later that year settled the dispute.

The Prime Minister might now consider the appointment of Sir Anthony Barrowclough, who had also retired recently as Ombudsman and was highly respected, to do the same job for HIV victims.

Commons debates had drawn attention to cases of children suffering from haemophilia who had become HIV-positive. In one case, a couple had two sons who contracted HIV. The elder boy had full-blown Aids and was terminally ill, but their cases were only two of 1,200 in which HIV was confirmed.

"Many of the victims have died and more live with the prospect of an early and most painful death in direct consequence of treatment they were given under the NHS."

Justice for many of the victims would be posthumous — which was not justice at all.

He was told there was not a precise parallel with the Thalidomide case, but the Thalidomide issue did involve severely disabled people who were trying against mostly hopeless odds to achieve justice through the courts. The same applied to the present dispute.

The increasing number of deaths among people with Aids due to contaminated blood made an out-of-court settlement all the more pressing urgent.

Earlier in the debate, Sir Barney Hayhoe (Brentwood and Isleworth, C) (right), a former Minister for Health, called for emergency funds during this financial year to prevent the closure of National Health Service beds and operating theatres.

He said that discussions were taking place between the Treasury and health ministers on public spending for next year, but there was increasing pressure on hospitals now.

Last autumn the Secretary of State for Health (Mr Kenneth Clarke) had obtained extra resources for the health service this year and he had equated those resources with real growth. But since then inflation had more than eroded that hoped-for growth.

The global figures did not reveal the whole truth. They did not show the higher growth of family practitioner services, which were not cash limited, and the lower growth of hospital and community care services which were.

"Regional and district health authorities are facing very severe financial constraints leading to limits and reductions and cuts in in-patient services."

"These are necessary to balance their books during the current financial year and ministers are more than usually insistent this year that the books are balanced so as to have an even playing field for the introduction of the new financial regime for hospital services which will come as a result of NHS and Community Care Bill."

The parliamentary spring recess, starting tomorrow, provided an opportunity to review the difficulties. Otherwise, there would be ward and bed closures and restrictions on operating theatres. That was an enormously inefficient way of reducing spending within the health service, reducing productivity, increasing the costs of particular operations in a very unacceptable way.

Longer waiting times and waiting lists would result. That would happen in the context of a health service where morale was already below its best. Nurses from the West Midlands Hospital had been to see him to complain that they were being treated unfairly by the poll tax compared, for example, with RAF apprentices, and about the "abominable conditions" in nursing homes. Health authorities did not have the resources to do anything about it.

The case for in-year increases for the health service grew stronger. Urgent and sympathetic action was required from the ministers concerned. "I hope an appropriate in-year increase for the health service hospitals will be agreed."



Peers concern for human rights

THE incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights into British law found favour on all sides of the Lords during a debate on civil liberties.

Lord Hutchinson of Lillingstone (Lib Dem) said that more cases had been upheld in the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg against Britain than against any other country.

He told peers that the "long trek to a foreign jurisdiction to find the sustenance of justice must surely be a matter of shame to this Government."

Injustices had involved contempt of court, data protection, prison rules, immigration, corporal punishment, mental patients' rights, children in care, official secrets, homosexuality and the closed shop.

More than 100 important changes to regulations and administrative practices affecting citizens' civil rights here had resulted from decisions made in Strasbourg.

The only way forward now was the incorporation of the European convention into British law, as every other European country had done.

HOUSE OF LORDS

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the former Lord Chancellor, said that, compared with the appalling state of the rest of the world, this was a very agreeable country to live in. By far the most serious encroachments of civil liberties were criminality, violence and terrorism.

Nobody could get to the court at Strasbourg until they had exhausted local remedies. British judges were far better judges of what did or did not apply in the British context.

"Therefore I would be glad to see the European convention, subject to the sovereignty of Parliament, incorporated into the British system."

Lord Alexander of Wealdstone (Lib Dem) said that "Society increasingly comprises minorities whose interests might not have enough widespread appeal or, to put it crudely, sufficient voting pull for them to be effectively protected in Parliament."

Opening the debate, Lord Irvine of Lairg (Lab) said that a sustained feature of this Administration had been its obsession with government secrecy and national security to the prejudice of traditional freedoms.

Viscount Ullswater, for the Government, said that safeguards already existed in British legislation and in far more precise terms than in the European convention.

That was no reflection on the impartiality of the judiciary but a reaffirmation that it was for Parliament, in the exercise of sovereignty, to decide.

MPs issue two more attacks on poverty figures

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

GOVERNMENT statistics are underlining the true extent of poverty in Britain since the 1988 social security reforms by underestimating the number of families living under the income support level, a committee of MPs said yesterday.

In a fresh challenge to the official figures, the House of Commons social services committee published two further studies by the Institute of Fiscal Studies into the effect of replacing supplementary benefit with income support and into the regional differences in levels of income.

The first institute study forced the Government to change the way it draws up its poverty figures by disproving the "trickle-down" theory, that theory asserts that the poorest sections of society benefit from the greater prosperity of the better-off.

The new analysis shows that nearly four million families, covering 7.5 million people, are not receiving benefits even though their net resources put them below the income support line.

Mr Frank Field, the committee chairman, said: "Under the old series of data on low income families the Government published the numbers apparently eligible for supplementary benefit but not claiming."

"It has resolutely refused to publish equivalent data for income support. This is why the committee asked the institute to rework the 1987 family expenditure survey data."

The second study found a sharp North/South divide when

taking the Government's own arbitrary level of those living on below half average income.

Mr Field said: "The South-east has the lowest proportion of people below half of average income. Yorkshire and Humberside has 72 per cent more people living below half the average income than does the South-east."

"In the northern region, there are 63 per cent more people on below half of average income and in the North-west there are 45 per cent more at this level of income than in the South-east."

The institute also found a huge drop in the number of benefit claimants after the 1988 reforms.

Mr Field said: "A political point that the committee wish to follow up is why is it that, when most of the pensioners drawing supplementary benefit or housing benefit in 1987 had incomes below income support, the numbers on the welfare roll did not rise when the scheme was introduced the following year."

He added: "Against all expectations, the transfer from supplementary benefit to income support resulted in a marked fall in the numbers claiming, from 8.2 million claimants in May 1987 to 7.4 million in 1988."

House of Commons Social Services Committee — Households and Families below average income: A Regional Analysis (Stationery Office, £7.15).

House of Commons Social Services Committee — Income Support System and the Distribution of Income in 1987 (Stationery Office, £3.45).

Call for pensions lead by ministers

A CALL for the Government to take a lead in introducing the same retirement age for men and women was made by Mr Robert McCrindle (Brentwood and Ongar, C) in the Commons.

He was supported by Mr Alan Beith (Berwick-upon-Tweed, Lib Dem), who said that some sort of machinery must be set in motion to enable some progress to be made in this vital public debate.

Mr McCrindle, speaking during a debate about next week's spring recess, said that the matter had become even more important because of the recent judgement in the European Court of Justice. That concerned entitlement under a private pension scheme, but he doubted if there would be any consensus within the private occupational pension industry unless and until the Government gave a lead.

The retirement age presented a difficult problem, one that the Government had understandably sought to avoid. Whichever way the Government moved, it was bound to upset one sex or the other. There was no easy solution to the matter, but the Government must grasp the

RETIREMENT

nettle. If the decision were to be to allow everyone to retire at 60 without loss of pension rights, that would need additional investment by the Government of £3.2 billion. At the least, the time had come for the Government to produce proposals.

Later in the same debate, Mr Geoffrey Leifur (Pontefract and Castleford, Lab) said that if the mining industry was to continue to be run down, there was an obligation on the Government to assist in providing alternative employment for those thrown out of work.

The announcement by Sir Robert Ham, chairman of British Coal, that a further 7,000 jobs could be lost to the industry over the next three years, was a continuation of the huge reduction in the workforce.

One of the worrying features of this trend was that the average age of miners was also coming down; it was now 33. If these young men were to lose their jobs, there was little hope they would be able to find work without some help.

Inquiry into Labour 'spite'

An urgent investigation into alleged acts of spite against Conservative wards by two Labour-controlled councils is being made by Mr Michael Portillo, Minister for Local Government and Inner Cities.

Mr Robert Dunn (Dartford, C) asked him during Commons questions to consider legislation to avoid a disgraceful practice by the Labour-controlled councils of Walsall and Bradford whereby people living in Tory wards should receive fewer services and have less money spent on them than those in Labour wards.

Mr Portillo said that he had been so appalled by the allegations that he was examining the matter urgently. He had spoken to Councillor Pickles (who was leader of the former Conservative-controlled Bradford council) and was trying to establish what was going on.

"I urge charge payers in these areas to examine whether they might not already have recourse under the law."

Chope pledge on charge

The Government will set the community charge on empty properties if it finds that local councils do not exercise their discretion properly, Mr Christopher Chope, Under Secretary of State, Environment, said.

He told Mr Timothy Voe (South Suffolk, C) that the department was writing to local authorities to find out exactly how they were exercising their discretion in charging for empty properties. Councils have discretion to charge from nothing up to double community charge.

If the discretion was not being used sensibly, the Government would have to consider whether to specify the maximum for particular circumstances.

Hope for the elephant

An expert has suggested that prices of ivory overall have fallen so much that poaching in Africa is no longer worthwhile and in some areas may virtually have stopped. Mr David Heathcoat-Amory, Under Secretary of State for Environment, said in a written Commons reply. He added the hope that poaching would soon stop in all parts of Africa.

He said that the decision to ban commercial trade in African elephants and elephant products had much reduced demand for ivory.

Cambridge environment

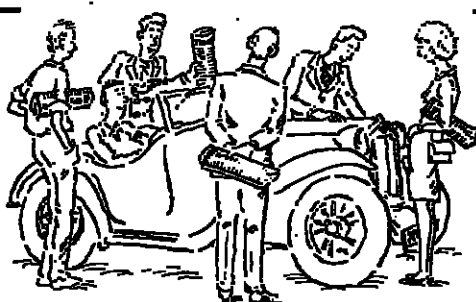
Mr Christopher Patten, the Environment Secretary, confirmed that he believed Cambridge was the best candidate as the base for the new European Environment Agency.

Mr James Paice (South East, Conservative, C) said the Labour council in Cambridge had said it did not want the agency to be based in the city.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Spring adjournment debates on various topics. Lords (11): Social Security Bill, committee, third day. Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) and Aviation and Maritime Security Bill, third readings.

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SELL IT THROUGH THE TIMES

Great ability, little experience

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

HERE is a test for those who claim to know their politics. Can you name the six members of the Shadow Cabinet with experience of government at any level? Or the five members of Labour's front bench who have served in a Cabinet?

The Labour Party has been redressing the policy shortcomings that penalized the party at the last two elections. But politics is about men as well as measures. As we move into the pre-election phase, Conservatives will intensify efforts to cast doubt on the suitability of Labour's front bench team for facing the tasks of government.

By common consent, Labour now has its most able Shadow Cabinet in years, even if the middle ranks behind them have yet to show the talent evident among the Government's junior ministers. But ability in opposition is one thing, experience in government is quite another, and a Labour team led by an aspirant prime minister who has never been so much as a parliamentary private secretary in government is clearly short of practice on the job.

Just how short can be seen by comparing the present front bench team with that which came to office with Harold Wilson in 1964. They too took over after a long stretch, 13 years, of Tory rule, but 12 of the 23 members of the first Wilson Cabinet had previous experience of government, four as members of a previous cabinet. This time around only seven of the elected Shadow Cabinet have any experience in government: Roy Hattersley, John Smith, Gerald Kaufman, John Cunningham, Michael Meacher, Joan Lester and Margaret Beckett.

Neil Kinnock has only four men in his front bench team with previous experience of the Cabinet (unless you count Stan Orme, now 67, who is listed on the team as chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party but who would be unlikely to be offered a Cabinet post).

The four are Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, 1975-79; John Smith, Secretary of State for



Mr Tony Blair

Trade, 1978-79; John Morris, Secretary of State for Wales, 1974-79; and, in the Lords, Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos, now 73, he was Secretary of State for Wales, 1966-68 and Minister of Agriculture, 1968-70.

In all, Labour has a front bench team of 82 in the Commons, plus 13 whips. There are another 28 party spokesmen in the Lords, including 6 whips, making a total of 123 to face the Government's 120 (85 in the Commons, 14 Commons whips, 15 ministers in the Lords and 6 whips in the upper House). It is an indication of how political life has developed that the 1964 Labour Government totalled 101.

Of Labour's 82 spokesmen in the Commons, there are just 12 who list previous ministerial experience at any level in *Dod's Parliamentary Companion*.

As well as the three former members of

the Cabinet (Hattersley, Smith and Morris), there are three who made it to minister of state level in a previous Labour government: Gerald Kaufman, Industry, 1975-79; Denis Howell, Housing, 1969-70; Environment and Sport, 1974-79; and John Fraser, Prices and Consumer Protection, 1976-79. But Mr Howell has announced his intention to retire at the next election.

There are seven more of the present spokesmen with bottom rung experience as parliamentary secretaries during a previous Labour government. They are Margaret Beckett, Education; Joan Lester, Education and Foreign Office; John Cunningham, Energy; Michael Meacher, Industry, Social Security and Trade; Barry Jones, Wales; Alf Morris, DHSS/Disabled; and Jeremy Bray, Power and Mines.

At a pinch, Mr Kinnock could claim previous governmental experience for three of his team who were whips in the Callaghan days: Ann Taylor, Peter Snape, and Jim Marshall.

What is perhaps more surprising is that, of the Labour front bench in the Commons, only 30 have even been backbench MPs during the lifetime of a Labour government. Gordon Brown, leading the Labour team of six on Trade and Industry, has only one contemporary from the 1983 intake among them; the rest all entered the Commons in 1987. Tony Blair, another 1983 Commons entrant leading the four-contemporaries from his year and one team member from the 1987 intake.

Promotion comes rapidly in Mr Kinnock's party. Seventeen of those facing the Tories on the front bench entered the Commons only in 1987. Another twenty-two came to Westminster with the previous intake in 1983.

It certainly helps your chances to be a woman. The 23 women Labour MPs include the front bench and one deputy Speaker. Of the remaining 21, Sylvia Heal, no fewer than 14 have a place on Mr Kinnock's top team, a striking rate of 66.6 per cent.

Blow to Canada unity as Quebec minister resigns

FROM JOHN BEST IN OTTAWA

THE resignation of the most senior cabinet minister from Quebec from the Government of Mr. Brian Mulroney has fuelled the fires of separatism in the mainly French-speaking province and underlined growing difficulties in Canada's confederation.

It represents a personal tragedy for Mr. Mulroney, a long-time personal friend of the minister, Mr. Lucien Bouchard.

Mr. Bouchard announced his resignation as Environment Minister on Tuesday, saying that he could no longer tolerate the recent "outpouring of prejudices and emotions" against Quebec in English Canada, reviving around efforts to bring Quebec into the national Constitution.

His departure from the Conservative government benches to sit as an independent MP was the latest blow in a series dealt the Prime Minister by Quebec members in recent days. Earlier two backbench MPs, Mr. Francois Gerin and Mr. Gilbert Bertrand, also quit the Conservative caucus to sit as independents.

The immediate catalyst in all cases was the report of a Commons committee, made public last week, which recommended ways to break the long-gathering impasse over a constitutional agreement, called the Meech Lake accord. The three defectors maintain that the report of the committee, which was set up at Mr. Mulroney's behest, waters down and fundamentally alters the accord.

Meech Lake, designed to end Quebec's constitutional isolation from the rest of the country, dating from 1982, was signed by all 10 provinces in 1987 but three still have not ratified it. The ratification deadline is June 23. The

quarrel has ignited dormant passions on both sides of Canada's English-French divide, causing many English Canadians to dig in their heels against further accommodation with Quebec, while convincing Quebecers that English Canada does not understand their aspirations.

It has also undoubtedly increased separatist pressures in Quebec, which accounts for about a quarter of the national population of 25 million.

A poll published last week in the *Toronto Star* indicated that support in Quebec for a politically independent state associated economically with Canada had climbed to 60 per cent. This compares with 40 per cent who voted for the same concept in a referendum conducted by Quebec's separatist Parti Quebecois (PQ) government in 1980.

The separatist threat waned for a few years after 1980, but has flared again in the seemingly endless haggling over a constitutional deal.

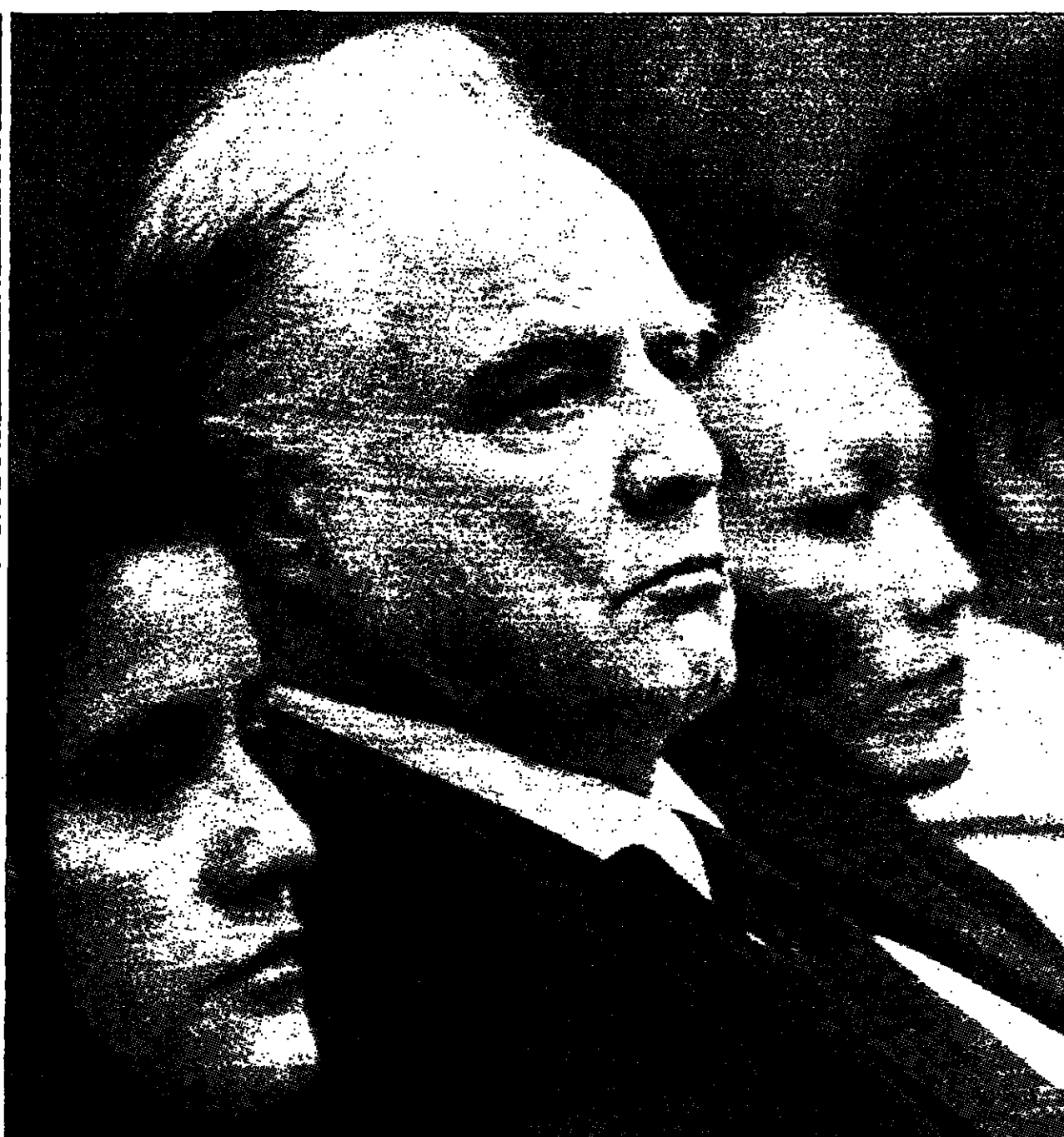
Mr. Bouchard himself had pronounced separatist leanings before Mr. Mulroney, taking one of the biggest gambles of his political life, promoted him to the Cabinet in 1988 and subsequently made him his "Quebec lieutenant". Before that, Mr. Bouchard had served for a time as Canadian ambassador to France.

Mr. Bouchard supported the separatist side in the 1980 referendum and has remained an ardent Quebec nationalist, trying to balance his pre-eminent loyalty to Quebec with his loyalty to Canada.

His resignation was probably only a matter of time after he sent a message of support last Saturday to a PQ convention commemorating the tenth anniversary of the independence referendum. The message referred to the "honesty, pride and generosity" of the pro-sovereignty team that had fought the referendum.

In his letter of resignation to Mr. Mulroney, Mr. Bouchard warned that henceforth Quebec would be talking from "a position of strength" in future constitutional negotiations. In language that could have been taken directly from the separatist vocabulary, he said: "Only a Quebec state with a clear democratic mandate to recover its full powers will dispose of the political authority to negotiate the Canadian association of tomorrow."

Yesterday the spate of defections from the Government appeared to have stopped, at least temporarily. Mr. Mulroney, meanwhile, was contemplating whether to call the provincial premiers to Ottawa for a last-ditch effort to save the Meech Lake accord and what is left of Canada's national unity.



Marlon Brando, the actor, listening in a Los Angeles court where his son, Christian, was refused bail on a charge of murdering the boyfriend of Brando's daughter, Cheyenne, left. Brando said later: 'The messenger of misery has come to my house.' He said he believed his son was innocent and that he would appeal against refusal of bail.

Rejected authors granted shelf life

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THERE must be hundreds, if not thousands, of *Times* readers who have their great unpublished masterpiece tucked away in a bottom drawer — packaged along with the publishers' rejection slips. Not to worry. Now, even without resort to vanity publishing, such work can see the light of day. An American entrepreneur from Burlington, Vermont, has set up a library exclusively for unpublished books. He calls it "folk literature".

"We are challenging the publishing industry concept that if something is not publishable, it is not readable," said Mr. Todd Lockwood, the library's founder. "We don't buy that. There is a lot of work out there that is readable."

Mr. Lockwood, aged 39, a college drop-out and former photographer, was inspired by a novel called *The Abortion: An Historical Romance* 1966.

An early work by Richard Brautigan, an American cult writer popular among students in the late 1960s, the novel takes as its protagonist a worker in a San Francisco library where anyone can deposit a manuscript, day or night, and have it placed on the shelves.

Mr. Lockwood read *Abortion* when it was first published in 1971. But it was only last year, when he saw the film *Field of Dreams* — the story of a whimsical Iowa farmer who decides to build a baseball pitch in his cornfield — that he finally plucked up courage to press ahead with his pet project.

He approached friends, local authors, Mr. Brautigan's agent and some celebrities of the counter-culture. He signed up W.P. Kinsella, the author of the novel *Shoeless Joe* which became *Field of Dreams*, as well as writers and businessmen. Together they raised the \$10,000 (£6,250) needed for a binding machine, and rented an office space in the centre of Burlington.

The library opened late last month with a sign outside that reads: "The Brautigan Library. A Very Public Library." So far the library has received only 15 volumes, but it is sending out 10 to 12 applications a day.

With each work, writers must submit a synopsis and a \$25 fee to cover the library's costs. In return, the library binds the book and puts it on the shelves.

Le Pen to pay token damages

Paris — THE French extreme right-wing leader, M. Jean-Marie Le Pen, was ordered to pay a symbolic one franc (11p) in damages yesterday for having described Nazi chambers as a "detail" in the history of the Second World War.

A civil court in the Paris suburb of Nanterre ruled that the leader of the National Front had "committed a fault" for which he cannot say that he was only making use of his freedom of speech. M. Le Pen made the statement, which outraged France's influential Jewish community, in a radio interview in September, 1987.

The court ruling followed a plea for 900,000 francs damages from nine groups representing concentration camp survivors and their descendants. M. Patrick Quentin, lawyer for an anti-racist group, which jointly sponsored the civil case against M. Le Pen, described the ruling as a "perfect judgment". But other defence sources spoke privately of a "half-success".

M. Le Pen said: "I am not saying the gas chambers did not exist. I did not see them myself. I have not studied the question, but I think it is a mere detail in the history of the Second World War."

The civil damages suit was the latest in a series of legal and other problems besetting M. Le Pen. The European Parliament lifted his parliamentary immunity in March for a second time in three months at the request of

the French judicial authorities. He was charged with insulting a minister after making a pun on his name that referred to Jews and gas ovens and is also due to face charges about statements alleging "international Jewry" was fomenting "anti-national feeling" in France.

An increasing number of French towns, including M. Le Pen's native La Trinité sur Mer in Brittany, have banned his public rallies for fear of incidents. M. Le Pen has been a mainstay of the extreme right for three decades, but has only made gains in opinion polls in the past six or seven years as more whites reacted to what they saw as the flooding of France by Third World immigrants, particularly North Africans.

His anti-immigrant platform has helped his popularity soar but the desecration of a Jewish cemetery in southern France this month prompted national outrage against right-wing groups. M. Le Pen denied any connection with the cemetery case.

Meanwhile, police detained nine people in the southern French town of Albi yesterday in connection with the graveyard desecration. Police sources said they were held for inquiries into a vandal attack on the Carpentras cemetery, 150 miles away, earlier this month. They were among 15 people arrested in a dawn swoop on suspects already under investigation for the desecration of a nearby Christian cemetery in November 1988, the sources said.

Setback for Bush on aid package

FROM SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush's attempts to get \$720 million (£425 million) in urgently needed aid to Panama and Nicaragua were stalled last night after a congressional campaign to halve military assistance for El Salvador.

Congress fiercely debated the issue for four hours on Tuesday and initially, in what Democrats described as a rebuff to the Bush Administration, voted 250-163 in favour of an amendment to halve American military aid to the Government of President Alfredo Cristiani.

The clause was added in protest against his lack of progress in prosecuting the murders of six Jesuit priests last November.

But minutes later, Republicans and mainstream Democrats, in another vote, unexpectedly defeated the Bill containing the El Salvador clause, throwing the whole Central American package into a temporary limbo.

The complicated session of congressional votes on foreign aid left unchanged America's annual \$85 million (£51 mil-

lion) contribution in military assistance to El Salvador despite efforts by the Democrats to halve it. Opponents of the Bill said afterwards that their votes reflected growing disagreement among US lawmakers about the amount of federal money allocated to overseas aid at the expense of domestic programmes, rather than a lack of support for emergency aid for Nicaragua and Panama. Republicans voted against the Bill because of the language of the El Salvador section, while many liberal Democrats thought it was not tough enough.

The outcome of the votes is a typical example of the political posturing within Congress that makes the US legislative process so lengthy.

One senior congressional official described the vote as a "pyrrhic victory" for everyone. The White House had served warning that it would probably veto the measure limiting US aid to El Salvador, whose right-wing Government, in an attempt to gain leverage on the Bush Administration, have insisted on linking Mr. Bush's proposed aid to the Central American countries with censuring of El Salvador.

President Bush, who has granted emergency aid to both countries to help rebuild their damaged economies, has repeatedly voiced his irritation that Congress has not moved faster to authorize his policy. In order to avoid a surge of

anti-US sentiment in the two countries, he is anxious that Congress approve the aid before a week-long recess which starts tomorrow.

In a related development on Capitol Hill on Tuesday, a conference of Democrats and Republicans agreed upon the wording of a \$4 billion (£2.3 billion) spending Bill for this year that would cut more than \$2 billion from defence spending to pay for domestic projects and the proposed aid to Panama and Nicaragua.

Since the killing of the priests, the Democrats have called for an end to US military aid to El Salvador. Over the past decade, the US has given a total of about \$4 billion in aid to El Salvador, or more than \$1 million a day.

Drugs haul claimed as biggest ever

Karachi — Pakistani officials said that they had seized 66,408 lb of hashish in what they called the world's biggest-ever seizure of the drug.

Agha Sikander Ali, regional director of the Pakistan Narcotics Control Board, said the hashish, seized in Karachi and hidden in a fake military trailer, was destined for Europe. (AFP)

12 face charges

Canberra — Federal investigators said in a Senate report that up to 12 individuals could be prosecuted as a result of investigations into alleged Second World War criminals living in Australia. (AP)

Ship setback

Keelung, Taiwan — The dissident Chinese radio ship, Goddess of Democracy, was prevented by customs problems from leaving this port as scheduled, while Japan announced that it would not be welcome there. (AFP)

Leader to quit

Lisbon — President Pereira of Cape Verde said he would leave the West African nation's only political party in preparation for a transition to multi-party democracy. (AP)

Zaire complaint

Kinshasa — Zaire said it plans a formal complaint against the Belgian newspaper *Le Soir* over a report that police slit the throats of 50 students during unrest in Lubumbashi, but added that it might launch an investigation. (Reuters)

Blind love

Delhi — Two Hindu brides married the wrong men because their long veils obscured their vision of the bridegrooms. (AP)

Colombian net tightens on cocaine 'Godfather'

FROM ALAN TOMLINSON IN BOGOTA

THE Colombian drug baron, Pablo Escobar, has defied more lawmen than Billy the Kid, bribed more judges than Al Capone, and slaughtered more innocent bystanders than Bonnie and Clyde, if official accounts of his exploits are to be believed.

The 40-year-old boss of the world's richest cocaine ring, the Medellin Cartel, is the most wanted gangster in his own country and in the US, and his picture is in files from Mexico City to London. Yet the efforts of police forces and armies from several countries have failed to catch him, after a 10-month manhunt.

Once a petty hoodlum, Escobar is now credited with having ordered hundreds of killings, including government ministers, presidential candidates, policemen, judges and journalists.

The former car thief and drug courier or "mule" is also accused of financing paramilitary armies that control vast areas of rural Colombia, and squads of hired killers who terrorize the cities in this

nation of 31 million people who know him as *El Padrino* — the Godfather.

Escobar's cartel provides an estimated two-thirds of all the cocaine entering the US and Europe, and his personal wealth has placed him on *Forbes* magazine's list of richest men in the world.

However, since President Barco declared war on the cartel last August, security forces have arrested dozens of key associates, seized farms and ranches, and forced Escobar to suspend many of his money-making operations. *El Padrino*, say the police, is a man on the run who sleeps no more than two or three nights in any one place.

In an attempt to intimidate the Government, the Medellin Cartel has embarked on a campaign of car bombings that has killed 250 people. The latest blast last Saturday caused 28 deaths in Bogota and Cali.

Police chiefs say *El Padrino*'s time is running out, as it did in December for his

Mexican-born partner, Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, killed by gunmen in pursuing helicopters as he fled from a raid on a remote ranch house.

But Escobar, the police concede, is more resourceful. An American official here called him "a genius".

The first big score which began his meteoric rise to the top of the Colombian underworld was in the early 1970s when he ransomed a kidnapped Medellin businessman for \$100,000 (£58,000).

In 1979, police arrested him for possessing 39 lb of cocaine. Typically, Escobar never went to trial and a year later gunmen assassinated the two arresting officers. By the early 1980s, as the cocaine trade boomed, the newly rich kingpin was investing in real estate — an \$8 million (£4.7 million) complex in Florida, a \$60 million ranch near Medellin.

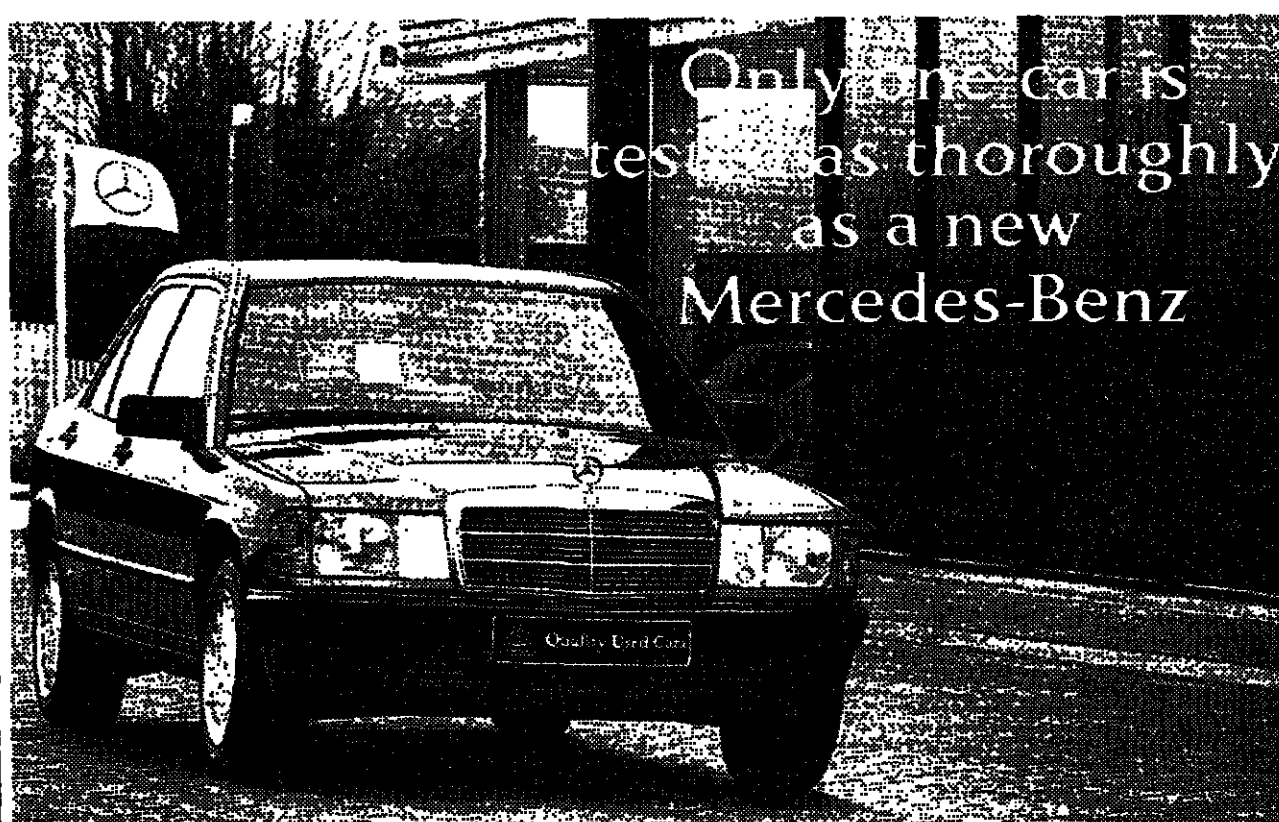
Seeking respectability, he won election as an alternate member of the Colombian congress in 1982, and began bribing prominent politicians to speak out in favour of the benefits of the drug trade.

Police and US narcotics agents say they came close three times to capturing Escobar. Colombia's army, navy and air force have been brought into the hunt, and sources say that American special forces have also become directly involved.

General Miguel Mazaor, chief of the Department of Security Administration, the Colombian FBI, says he has little doubt that *El Padrino* remains where he feels safest — among the cocaine-rich landowners and peasants of Medellin. "Every day we are closing in," said the general. "He is cornered, surrounded by his gunmen. Today he is totally isolated, but Medellin is still a city he can trust."



Public Enemy No 1: A drug trafficker and killer on the run, Escobar is still a folk hero in Medellin



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Rail strikes sidetrack Solidarity economic reforms

FROM ROGER BOYES
IN WARSAW

THE Solidarity-led Government, confronted with wildcat strikes paralysing Poland's rail system, is facing the most serious threat so far to its market-orientated economic reforms.

Full-scale negotiations between the Government, which includes many strike organizers from the 1980s, and the rail workers will be held today, though ministers are urging the three dozen railwaymen still on hunger strike to abandon their fast first.

Commenting on the moral dilemma of the Solidarity Cabinet in dealing with strikers, the Government spokeswoman, Miss Malgorzata Niezabitowska, declared yesterday: "Hunger strikes are an instrument against a totalitarian state, where all strikes are illegal. But now these workers have a right to strike — once all other legal means have been exhausted. Would it be democratic to

yield to the pressure of a hunger strike?" The striking railway workers, mainly from western Poland, are demanding wage increases and a complete overhaul of the railway administration. "Increasing wages for the railwaymen would lead to higher fares," said the Government's chief economic adviser, Dr Waldemar Kuczyński. "That in turn would drive up inflation. It would be a signal for other workers and ultimately threaten the whole Government programme."

The dispute represents more than the first skirmish in the industrial relations of the new East European democracies. It is part of a fundamental argument about the pace of change in the post-communist states. Mr Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the Solidarity Prime Minister, is operating what might be termed a "steered democracy", sharing power with the remnants of the old regime and advancing step-by-step politically. By contrast, Mr Lech Walesa, the newly re-

lected chairman of Solidarity, favours an acceleration of politics, taking its cue from the grassroots. Mr Walesa is speaking to that part of the population which wants to clear out any remaining communists, and make a restoration impossible.

His political calculation is that Mr Mazowiecki's demands for long-haul economic sacrifices will eventually suck dry the popularity of the Solidarity-led Government. New sources of legitimacy have thus to be found, even if that means a chaotic "cultural revolution".

The effect has been to undermine Mr Mazowiecki's Government, since it depends heavily on presenting an image of social calm to Western investors. The Solidarity union's praxis, chaired by Mr Walesa, was openly critical of the Government on Tuesday, though it also distanced itself from the strikers. It demanded that the Government send a team to Gdansk to talk to the union

leadership. Yesterday the Government refused. The impression given by Mr Walesa's advisers is that Mr Mazowiecki is now heading a kind of "Kerensky administration", an interregnum between two stages of a revolution.

The fact is that Mr Walesa has gauged the extent of worker unrest in Poland better than the Government of Mr Mazowiecki. The rail workers will certainly be followed by other groups — perhaps even the miners — as unemployment creeps up to the half million mark, the poverty belt grows and old age pensions shrivel.

The failure of the IMF-backed economic reform to produce quick results will encourage the leftists in Solidarity to make common cause with the survivors from the communist party. The reforms would then be watered down and Solidarity would squander its political capital. The Solidarity leader is, then, anticipating events, pushing the Prime

Minister, but not so hard that he topples. He hopes for the emergence of two main political groupings in the next few months: a centre-right that would continue the Solidarity strand of national independence, and a centre-left that would preserve the social democratic traces of the union movement.

Solidarity appears to have served its historical purpose as a dismantler of communism; its aim now is to be an umbrella organization until political parties take proper shape. Perhaps within a year, Solidarity can confine itself to pure trade union activities.

Local council elections, due on Sunday, are an important move, the first completely free postwar elections in Poland, since the national poll last June reserved a chunk of seats for communists. The rail strikes have embittered the atmosphere ahead of the council elections. Ordinary voters are confused, frequently having to choose between lists

of citizens' committees — broadly speaking Solidarity but including many different political orientations — extreme right-wingers and ecologists who sometimes also include former communists among their candidates.

Ideally the polls would be a vote of confidence on the market reforms of the present Government. But the council elections, effectively a handover of power from the central state to town councils, do not provide this opportunity. The strikes give a more precise sounding of the mood in the country.

Mr Mazowiecki plans national and presidential elections next spring. However, Mr Walesa thinks that is too long for the workers to wait, that only immediate political radicalization can really support the pain of market reform. Even the left-wingers in Solidarity, who have been quietly waiting for the IMF-sponsored economic policies to stumble, are now gripped by panic.

Gorbachov lectures Yeltsin on socialism

Moscow
PRESIDENT Gorbachov accused Mr Boris Yeltsin, the populist politician, yesterday of abandoning socialist principles and trying to "excommunicate" Russia from its socialist roots.

Mr Gorbachov was addressing the Russian parliament during a debate on "sovereignty", or expanding the economic and social powers of Russia, the largest of the country's 15 republics. The debate will be followed by the election of the Russian president.

Mr Yeltsin, who has attacked Mr Gorbachov for pursuing reform too timidly, spoke to the parliament on Tuesday. He is standing for president, but is thought to be a long shot against Mr Aleksandr Vlasov, the Russian Prime Minister, who has Mr Gorbachov's backing.

Mr Gorbachov said Mr Yeltsin's address on Tuesday, in which he had blamed Russia's economic ills on centralism, had been tantamount to "an appeal for a collapse of the Union" under the cloak of sovereignty and was a recipe for confrontation. Mr Gorbachov told more than 1,000 deputies that Mr Yeltsin's speech represented "an attempt to excommuni-

cate Russia from socialism". "There was not a single mention of the word 'socialism'. Even the words 'Soviet' and 'socialist' disappeared from Yeltsin's name for the republic."

"For us Russians, for all peoples of our country, the socialist choice, the power of the soviets, are not just phrases. These are our fundamental values, our benchmarks." He said Mr Yeltsin's call for sovereignty to extend to individuals, factories and local councils "takes the question to the absurd and would in any case lead to anarchy, to parochialism".

In his speech on Tuesday, Mr Yeltsin had said Russia's dire economic difficulties were "the fault of the imperial policies of the centre. All the damage was done by the central administrative system." A former junior member of the Communist Party Politburo, hugely popular among ordinary Russians, he called for "real economic and political sovereignty".

Mr Gorbachov, who spoke to the parliament at the request of deputies, dismissed the notion that five years of perestroika reforms had been "nothing but a mistake" and gave an oblique warning. "Discussions often take on a politicized character," he said. "The balance of forces can clearly be seen, as can political games to take over power. I think we have to be careful with this. There should be fewer political rallies and more, deeper analysis."

He offered his support for the principle of sovereignty for Russia, adding that the Soviet Union was "inconceivable without Russia". Most deputies, including Mr Vlasov, have spoken in favour of sovereignty, emphasizing that Russia did not receive adequate compensation for its contribution to the Soviet economy.

● Strike called off. Russian workers in Estonia called off a strike against the republic's independence declaration yesterday after an appeal from President Gorbachov.

A spokesman for the organizing committee said the three-day-old strike, which has almost closed the republic's main port, disrupted transport and closed factories, had been called off indefinitely and would end this morning.

Speaking from the rebel republic's capital, Tallinn, he said: "We received a message from President Gorbachov expressing support for and solidarity with our struggle but asking us, in connection with the serious economic situation in the country, to call the strike off."

However, he added: "If the supreme soviet of the republic or the government take further measures to aggravate the situation, we reserve the right to resume it at any moment." (Reuter)

Leading article, page 13

Grouse back on menu

FROM MICHAEL BINYON
IN BRUSSELS

THANKS to the learned counsel of five justices of the European Court of Justice, the Glorious Twelfth may now whet with anticipation the palates of Dutch gourmets. For the first time in over half a century, it will be legal to eat British grouse in Holland.

The Luxembourg-based court ruled yesterday that an ancient bird protection law in The Netherlands, forbidding the import and sale of endangered species, could not be used to ban the sale of grouse legally blasted out of the sky on the Yorkshire moors.

The "Gourmetterrie Van den Burg" restaurant had offered the delicacy to its clients, but had been hauled before Dutch magistrates for breaking a 1936 law. The restaurant appealed, and the Dutch High Court, mindful of the European Community's dire penalties for quantitative restrictions on the free circulation of goods, turned to Luxembourg for a ruling.

The judges looked carefully at the Dutch law. It forbids any trade in endangered species and the shooting of migratory birds. The grouse is not a native of the Dutch lowlands. However, it is neither migratory nor, thanks to the British rules of fair play, endangered.

The court noted that the Bird Protection Act was aimed at other species — those considered the "common heritage of the Community" and those on the way to extinction. The grouse being served up in Holland had been shot in accordance with the regulations in Britain. They could be eaten in their native land; why should Dutch restaurant-goers also not relish the delicacy?

Brussels had already put out a directive in 1979 to preserve Europe's birds — a vain attempt to stop the wholesale slaughter of migratory birds as they fly over Italy. Community law gave any member a full right to insist on even stricter protection measures. But this could not be used to prevent the free trade in food, especially if it was food legally available in another country.

Young girls, prepared to show all



Browsing in vain: Rows of empty shelves confront Muscovites in a government store. Steep price increases are expected to be announced today

Iliescu is shadowed by spectre of party past

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN BUCHAREST

MR ION Iliescu, the former Communist Party apparatchik due to be named tomorrow as the next President of Romania, is the least charismatic but most controversial of the new breed of leaders to emerge from the recent upheavals in Eastern Europe.

His claims, after an electoral landslide of embarrassing proportions, to be a path towards Swedish-style social democracy have been rejected by the demonstrating students who dismiss him as a reformed Communist in the Gorbachov mould.

At the age of 60, Mr Iliescu was the youngest of the three presidential candidates and the only one to have lived all his adult life in Romania. His Soviet ties are so deep that Western intelligence experts are convinced that he was head-hunted for the task of replacing Ceausescu by President Gorbachov himself.

Mr Iliescu flatly denies the suggestion that he was a close friend of Mr Gorbachov during their shared student days in Moscow where he spent

five years studying at the Molotov Institute, the leading party-cadre training school.

His denials are dismissed by many intellectuals as being part of recent efforts to distance himself from his pro-Soviet background. The conviction of many of his opponents that he is little more than a Soviet puppet, installed by a coup disguised as a revolution, has dominated much of the post-electoral criticism. It has failed to upset the great majority of ordinary Romanians.

Since taking charge of the provisional Government, caution has been Mr Iliescu's watchword. Despite his intellectual ebullience he is not regarded as having the breadth of political imagination necessary to solve Romania's pressing problems. Having initially hinted that he would pull the country out of the Warsaw Pact, he announced publicly after Sunday's vote that he would now be keeping it in.

Those close to the President-elect claim that many aspects of the administration

he has run since the revolution are based on strict communist lines. That is not surprising for a man who was scarcely 14 when he joined the Union of Young Communists and continued a long party career, which only ended in 1984 when he was removed from the Central Committee.

While supporters emphasized his differences with Ceausescu, critics note his long membership of the Politburo and also a full member of the party's propaganda department and at one time, Ceausescu's chosen successor. It was only in 1987 that his disgrace became absolute.

But as the election results giving him around 85 per cent of the vote showed, this failed to move an electorate determined to see him as the hero of the December revolution.

● Currie challenged: Another British observer of the Romanian election yesterday said Mrs Edwina Currie's view that it was fair (Andrew McEwen writes).

Mrs Jessica Douglas-Home, whose late husband, Charles, was a former editor of the *Times*, said that Mrs Currie's opinion out across the findings of a more experienced team of observers. She was one of three Britons among 60 observers sent by the US National Republican Institute and the National Democratic Institute. They found that the poll was "not consistent with a democracy", after making observations in 12 regions.

"Before the election there was intimidation, harassment and a very high degree of control by the Government", she said.



Mr Iliescu: Apparatchik in the Gorbachov mould

Letters, page 13

Nato to lower state of alert

FROM MICHAEL EVANS IN BRUSSELS

NATO defence ministers agreed in Brussels yesterday that the state of readiness and availability of some of the alliance's standing forces in Central Europe could be lowered for the first time since the beginning of the Cold War.

The decision at the Nato Defence Planning Committee represents one of the most significant practical measures taken by the alliance in response to the changes in the Warsaw Pact.

Herr Manfred Wörner, the Nato Secretary-General, said the details of the lower alert status were classified. But he singled out air defence as an area that would be affected by the decision.

This will mean that some RAF squadrons and other alliance air forces on a high alert status in West Germany will adopt a more relaxed regime. It is likely that some air defence missile units, and possibly battlefield nuclear weapons batteries, will also have their status changed.

But Herr Wörner was quick to point out at a news conference that the decision did not imply that troops in the front line could now be pulled back. He said: "This is not a message for troops to go home."

However, the defence ministers agreed, after examining a new risk assessment document, that there was now a "substantial increase in warning time" because of the collapse of the Warsaw Pact.

Mr Richard Cheney, the US Defence Secretary, suggested that, once Soviet troops had left Eastern Europe, the US would be able to change the mobilization period for American reinforcements to Europe from 10 days to a "few months".

British troops in West Germany have a requirement to be ready to reach the inner

German border within four hours. This commitment may also be under review.

Yesterday's communiqué said further "substantial" reductions and adjustments are to be made in military training programmes. "This will reduce the impact on the public, will benefit the quality of life and protect the environment," the communiqué said.

Nato sources said the cut-back in training involves the cancellation of 10 exercises. A further 22 would be merged and 22 reduced. Nato's repair bills for damaging German farmland would be cut by \$21 million (£13 million) a year.

It was confirmed, too, that the 3 per cent annual rise in defence spending was now regarded as "no longer appropriate".

Mr Cheney also said yesterday that stocks of US nuclear artillery shells in West Germany have had to be repaired urgently because of doubts about safety standards. However, he rebutted a claim in *The Washington Post* that the "defective" W79 shells could have exploded.

Mr Cheney said the safety scare had arisen before he had been appointed Defence Secretary, although he had been able to check the records. The problem was first discovered in 1988. Mr Cheney said that the US maintained very high safety standards and the W79 had failed to meet those standards.

The nuclear shells, which are fired from 203 mm (8 inch) howitzers, are stocked in West Germany, Italy and The Netherlands. Detonated in wartime, they would deliver a minimum 2.3 kiloton nuclear yield. The report in *The Washington Post* claimed the warhead would produce a 10 kiloton yield, two-thirds of the force of the 1945 Hiroshima bomb.

US right furious at Start accord

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

ONE week before the Washington summit, American conservatives are vigorously denouncing the agreement on strategic nuclear arms reduction talks (Start) that Presidents Bush and Gorbachov are due to sign.

Right-wing commentators and former Reagan Administration hawks are protesting that, in order to secure a summit deal and help Mr Gorbachov, Mr James Baker, the Secretary of State, sold out American interests by making needless concessions during last week's talks in Moscow. The Administration strongly denies the charges.

Mr William Safire, the *New York Times* columnist, claimed that with the Administration "paralysed by fear of the who-lost-Gorbachov charge" the "vaunted negotiator (Baker) caved in to basic Gorbachov demands all the way down the line".

A damning *Wall Street Journal* editorial entitled "Stop Start" observed that the US had made all the concessions and concluded: "If Jimmy Carter signed this deal, he'd be hooted out of town."

Mr Richard Perle, who was former President Reagan's Assistant Secretary of Defence, commented: "We are strong, and just at the moment we are strong we are making concessions." Another Reagan Administration arms control expert called the deal "a formula for disaster".

The critics make much of President Bush's less-than-effusive response to what Mr Baker achieved in Moscow. Initially he gave the results a "mixed review", only subsequently upgrading them to "a major step forward".

Their anger is focused particularly on how to limit Moscow's highly accurate long-range SS18 missiles. The Russians agreed to cut their 308-strong SS18 arsenal in half, but the conservatives say the US has dropped its earlier demand that these must not be modernized.

"The big US objective in Start has been to limit the first-strike potential of the huge land-based Soviet missile force," said the *Journal*. "But the Soviet first-strike advantage remains intact."

A senior Administration official who briefed journalists here on Tuesday strongly disputed that claim. The 50 per cent cut was "nailed ... in the can", he said. What Mr Baker had proposed was that the Russians should be able to do just enough testing to be able to preserve the reliability of its current SS18 force but too little to develop more modern successors. "It's a cap."

The critics are angry that Mr Baker bowed to Soviet demands that the treaty cover all air-launched nuclear-tipped cruise missiles with a range of more than 375 miles. The original American position was 930 miles.

They say the Russians upstaged clear US priorities by moving on a strategic arms deal ahead of a much more important conventional arms agreement.

Striptease a boom industry in unshackled East Germany

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

WHILE East German industry awaits the onslaught of capitalism with apprehension, one new home-grown business is on the way to market viability without need for subsidy or start-up money. Erotic shows, although still banned by the old communist constitution, are bursting out all over.

According to Herr Lothar Voigt, who runs the Spree Cabaret underneath the Palast der Republik, where the Volkskammer meets, "the demand is huge". He opened the first, not very naughty striptease show in East Germany 11 years ago, but in more recent years, clubs have skirting the law by staging "fashion shows" at which the "models" showed less and less clothing and more and more girl.

for DM 100 (£35), are much in demand, and the 100 or so cabarets where they appear are overbooked. The girls are also being snapped up by Western cabaret owners.

Worried that the export models will leave the home market bare, Herr Voigt is forming a lobby called the Sex League, to campaign to legalize erotic shows and make it possible to organize the business formally.

Meanwhile, West Germany's most experienced and successful sex show chain is already serving thousands of East German mail-order clients with items from its range of more than 2,000 pleasure-promoting devices. Legally, such items cannot be sent through the East German post, but since January Frau Beate Unse has been

fulfilling the orders which have been pouring in, because it was found that the postal authorities were doing nothing to interfere with the packets.

Frau Unse was born in East Prussia 70 years ago in what is now part of the Soviet Union. She built up her sex shop empire when, as a young refugee, she found so many people seeking advice and help about contraception and other sexual problems.

At a time when barter rather than money was the norm, she sold her first advice sheets for 4lb of butter. She opened her first sex shop in 1962 and today employs 550 people to run 46 shops and stores and 15 cinemas with an annual turnover of DM 107 million.

She started out offering an

exchange rate of one Deutschmark for three Ostmarks, but found this was uneconomic and amended this to one for five. Already she has done over DM 600,000 worth of business at these rates.

She is poised to spread her empire eastwards as soon as economic union makes it possible for her to set up a business there.

For the moment her East German clients have to find out what she has on offer from free mini-catalogues handed out from cars by the three sales teams she has already based in the East.

West Germany, despite a plentiful supply of sex shops and the erotic, has had the world's lowest birth rate for some time, with each woman producing an average of just 1.28 children — roughly five babies for each four mothers.

Suddenly, however, pregnancy seems to be popular again. Instead of wives insisting on a career, new figures suggest that more and more of them want a baby instead. The result is the beginning of a baby boom, with the average number of children per mother now at 1.5 and rising. The largest proportion of babies are being born to women in their thirties, who have had time to build a career to which they can return.

Other reasons found by researchers studying why older women are choosing to become mothers for the first time include the belief that husbands are more likely to remain faithful to an ageing wife if she starts having children.

Better obstetrics and gynaecology also make it safer for older women to have babies. For all the

wanted babies, there are still about 90,000 abortions a year in West Germany, even though technically it is illegal. The rules are more liberal in East Germany and this threatens to be one of the most difficult areas to "harmonize" as the reunification goes ahead.

● EAST BERLIN: East Germany's new non-communist government is dismissing 550 professors of Marxism-Leninism. Political upheavals have made the subject no longer compulsory.

Head teachers of almost 6,700 high schools, who had to be Communist Party members under the government ousted last year, are also losing their jobs in a clear-out "to promote democratic renewal in the education system," the Education Ministry said yesterday. (Reuter)

Arafat wants UN troops 'to protect' Palestinians

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

MR YASSIR ARAFAT, the Palestine Liberation Organisation leader, will call for the immediate stationing of UN troops in the Israeli-occupied territories when he addresses the UN Security Council in Geneva tomorrow, a PLO official said yesterday.

At the same time, the official Middle East News Agency in Cairo reported that President Bush had assured Egypt that the United States would reopen its doors to Soviet Jews in a bid to defuse Arab anger over immigration to Israel.

"Arafat will ask for protection for Palestinians in the occupied territories and for international intervention," said Mr Afif Safieh, a PLO representative in The Netherlands. "He will ask for the withdrawal of all Israeli forces now from the occupied territories and ask to send UN peacekeeping forces for an interim period."

The Security Council is due to hear Mr Arafat during a debate after an eruption of Arab violence, not only in the occupied territories but in Israel itself and Jordan. The Security Council has agreed to meet in Geneva, rather than in New York, so that the United States does not have to make a politically sensitive decision about whether to grant a visa to Mr Arafat.

Arab sources indicated that the United States had agreed not to block a plan to send a UN mission to the area, although Israel is expected to object. Mr Moshe Arens, the Israeli Foreign Minister, yesterday rejected criticism by President Bush and the European Community over Israel's handling of the violence that broke out after the killing of seven Palestinians by a Jewish gunman.

The critics had accused Israeli troops of using excessive force to put down the riots. They also say Israel has created hostility in the region by failing to get peace negotiations under way.

"We have heard people trying to make a connection between the tragedy at Rishon le Zion and the political process and the policies of the Israeli Government," Mr Arens said. "I think it should be clear to any well-meaning person that there is no such connection." Mr Arens said Israeli troops "acted in an exemplary manner" in dealing with the violence.

Only scattered incidents were reported in the occupied lands yesterday as the Army continued its 24-hour curfew on most of the territory's 1.7 million Palestinian residents. Between Sunday and Tuesday night, 13 Palestinians were shot and killed by Israeli troops. At least three people died in rioting in Jordan.

The casualties drew an unusually strong comment from the White House. Mr Marlin Fitzwater, the White House Press Secretary, said that Mr Bush had sent personal condolences to the families of all those killed in the Sunday attack and the subsequent

violence. "The President calls upon the Israeli security forces as well as others to act with maximum restraint," he said.

He added: "We believe that violence in the Middle East will continue, and possibly grow, so long as there is an absence of a promising peace process that nourishes hope among Israelis and Palestinians alike."

Yesterday the European Community issued a statement in Brussels saying it was "shocked and saddened by the violence" that had resulted in such a high death toll in the occupied territories.

The statement said the EC was concerned that there may have been "a use of excessive force to put down demonstrations" and said the turmoil had resulted from "the absence of any significant prospect of progress toward a settlement."

An even harsher statement was issued yesterday by Signor Giorgio Giacomelli, the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, which supervises aid programmes for the Palestinians. He said that statistics collected in the Gaza Strip indicated that more than 60 per cent of the wounded were hit in the upper body, despite army firing regulations calling for troops to aim at activists' legs.

"One can only feel that needless deaths and suffering could have been avoided if the military force had exercised restraint during the demonstrations of mourning," Signor Giacomelli said.

"Above all, we are disturbed that the use of live rounds of ammunition should have been resorted to so quickly and extensively and that the type of wounds inflicted appears to indicate a disregard for human life."

In a statement on the killing of the seven Palestinians by a cashed-in Israeli soldier, the Israeli Foreign Ministry said: "This tragedy was the act of one individual who seems to have acted in a crazed manner. The Israeli forces are dealing with an extremely difficult situation and are exercising maximum restraint."

It added: "There is no connection between the act of one crazed individual and the peace process."

Iraq, meanwhile, published the text of a letter from the Bush Administration to the Arab League and to Arab governments, asked Iraq to "moderate both its actions and its rhetoric" and said the other Arab states should try to persuade Baghdad there was no US-led conspiracy to "cut Iraq down to size". It added: "We have legitimate concerns, however, about Iraq's attempts to break US laws and its irresponsible statements on the use of missiles and chemical weapons."

● Nicosia: Mr Mehdi Karubi, Iran's Parliamentary Speaker, said Arab leaders due to meet in Baghdad next week should agree to stop oil sales to the West to back the Palestinian cause. (Reuters)



Women brandishing an automatic rifle and stones during a demonstration by at least 8,000 Palestinians and Lebanese in Muslim west Beirut yesterday in which they demanded revenge for the Arabs killed in Israel

Fresh hope for Cambodia deal

By ANDREW McEWE, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council are to hold talks on Cambodia tomorrow amid signs that a solution to the civil war may be in sight.

Diplomatic sources described the prospects as "better than they have been for a long time".

Radio Thailand said yesterday that the four warring factions in Cambodia had agreed to sign a ceasefire soon. It quoted Mr Chanthai Chonhavan, the Thai Prime Minister, as saying an agreement was certain. His comments followed a meeting with Mr Nguyen Co Thach, Foreign Minister of Vietnam.

Mr Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Phnom Penh Government, and Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the former Cambodian head of state, have said they will attend talks in Tokyo on June 4 and 5. While the factions have gone back on ceasefire agreements in the past and Prince Sihanouk has frequently changed his mind, there are other grounds for optimism.

A report by a UN fact-finding mission to Cambodia has encouraged the British Government to believe that an international solution is feasible. The five — the US, the Soviet Union, China, Britain and France — reached a provisional agreement in January on a 16-point plan for a UN-supervised interim government and elections in Cambodia. But there were many doubts at the time that it would work.

These have been eased by the findings of a team sent earlier this month by the UN Secretary-General's special representative on South-East Asia. The plan, a modified version of an earlier Australian proposal, depends on persuading the Phnom Penh

Government and the three factions of the UN-recognized government-in-exile to join in a Supreme Council of National Sovereignty.

Formal authority would be vested in this body, but the country would be administered under UN auspices until elections could be organized. The UN team would be backed by substantial forces drawn from a number of nations. Diplomatic sources said neither the cost nor the number of troops needed had been calculated, but both would be substantial. However, there was a willingness in principle among the five to back such a solution.

The meeting of the five in New York tomorrow and Saturday may lead to the reconvening of a 19-nation peace conference in Paris, which ended in deadlock last year. The British Government hopes that progress will be made before September, in time to avert an embarrassing diplomatic decision over who should hold Cambodia's seat at the United Nations.

It is at present held by the Bangkok-based Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (CGDK), the three-party group which includes the Khmer Rouge. The UN Credentials Committee will have to decide whether to renew its seat. Last autumn the British Government supported the Credentials Committee in allowing it to continue, despite criticisms that this amounted to support for the Khmer Rouge.

The Thai Government has been told that Britain will not support the CGDK again this autumn. Official British sources said no final decision had been taken, but it is thought certain that Britain will vote against it unless a solution is close by then.

Colonel dies in Manila ambush

Manila SUSPECTED communist guerrillas killed a Philippine colonel and four other people yesterday in an ambush here, a military spokesman said.

Colonel Reynaldo Dino, deputy chief for personnel of the paramilitary constabulary, was driving to work when the guerrillas sprayed his car with automatic rifle fire. His two bodyguards and his daughter, who was in her late twenties, were also killed. A woman passenger in a passing bus was also killed. Ten other people on the bus, including the driver, were wounded in the attack by six gunmen in the Manila suburb of Calocan.

The gunmen fled by car after the attack, police said. The ambush occurred on the eve of the founding anniversary of the Alex Boncayao Brigade, a communist death squad that has killed more than 100 soldiers and policemen in the Philippine capital during the past two years. The group was organized by the communist New People's Army.

"This is very likely an NPA attack," the Constabulary spokesman, Colonel Crescencio Maralit, said. Witnesses said the gunmen used the bus as cover when they opened fire on the colonel's car, which went out of control and collided with the bus. They said the gunmen kept firing at the stalled car. Later, about 50 members and supporters of the urban guerrilla death squad blamed for the attack held a briefing in the centre of the capital to mark the sixth anniversary of the group's founding. They unfurled large streamers and banners calling for "insurrection" and support for "armed partisan warfare".

President Aquino said the killing was brutal and senseless and she called for "swift justice".

The ambush was the latest sign of the deteriorating security in the capital as the rebels step up their fight to overthrow the Government.

The Cabinet decided yesterday to ask Congress to extend the President's emergency powers by six months. The additional powers were granted after last December's coup attempt. (Reuters, AP)

The military in Burma head off opposition

From NEIL KELLY in BANGKOK

THE Burmese military regime has cut the production of the traditional peasant hats made from bamboo, on the ground that they are made from products of the threatened rain forests; but the move is being seen as a way of preventing their use as anti-government symbols in the elections on Sunday.

The peasant hat is the election symbol of the leading opposition party, the National League for Democracy, many of whose supporters have taken to wearing the National Unity Party's rice stalks around their ankles or in their shoes as a gesture of contempt for the party favoured by the military regime.

Only six of the 93 parties participating in Burma's first multi-party election for 30 years are serious contenders. The election, which is intended to improve Burma's international image, is taking place in an atmosphere of secrecy and fear. Voters will go to the polls under martial law and a night curfew. There is no freedom of assembly or speech and all campaign statements are checked in advance by official censors.

Mild criticism of the previous military government is permitted, but not of the existing regime. No complete list of candidates has been published, and after the voting the winners' names — but no other polling details — will be made known. The Government, which controls all the media, is running a virulent campaign against anti-military parties, propaganda which one foreign ambassador said "makes Dr Goebbels look like Billy Graham".

Citizens are advised not to vote, because they are told "democracy does not work". Many of the half-million people forcibly removed from their homes to new areas recently will not be able to vote because they are on no electoral roll.

Most of the key figures in the election are not visible. General Ne Win, the dictator for 26 years, is retired officially and has not been seen for 14 months, but still has the last word on the big issues. The best known opposition leaders, U Nu, the former Prime Minister, and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of the National League for Democracy, are under house arrest and banned from the election.

Many of their senior colleagues and thousands of their supporters are in jail, where they are being tortured. The report warned Burmese they risk seven years in jail for failing to report an act of treason. (Reuters)

Singapore auctions right to a car

From BRIAN JAMES IN SINGAPORE

THE citizens of Mr Lee Kuan Yew's Singapore cannot assume anything, even the right to own a car. Faced with the inexorable rise in ownership and the inevitability of the island republic choking on an over-rich diet of too many cars, the Prime Minister has just begun making Singaporeans bid against each other for what will be the privilege of car ownership.

London drivers milling around Mr Lee during his visit this week are acutely aware that the only promise made by our experts is that by the year 2025 Britain will have twice as many vehicles competing for space on the country's roads.

Singapore, which compared with Asian neighbours like Bangkok, Bombay or Tokyo is no more than an automotive village, claims it has more cars per mile of road than Britain. But that is a statement about the smallness of the nation rather than about the state of its streets: it rarely has the jams we regard as routine. What makes the true contrast is the difference between their willingness to tackle the future and our own attitude.

The means Singapore has used until now have included a levy on all car imports of a soaring 175 per cent (thus a £10,000 Japanese saloon is a £17,500 luxury by the time it leaves the docks), an annual Registration Disc that can cost up to £1,500, and a system of

Restricted Zones into which you may not drive without payment for another piece of windscreen paper of £30 per month — £60 for company cars. But this month has seen the arrival of the most costly document yet.

From May 1, no Singaporean may buy a new car without a Certificate of Entitlement to Purchase. He obtains such a certificate only by taking part in a cut-throat auction against his fellow-citizens.

Predictably, the plan provoked outrage, even among the compliant Singaporeans. On top of other taxes and levies, in addition to swingeing fines on jay-walkers and litter-droppers, this was seen as going too far. The measure

was explained patiently by Mrs Maria Choy, director of the Land (transport) Division of the Communications Ministry. "Ownership of private cars on the island went up from 135,000 in 1977 to about 240,000."

The forecast was that as the economy boomed we would be moving towards 350,000. And then what, 500,000? The Government tried to control the growth by taxes... but it was all guesswork: how much more could we pile on the motorist? What would it take to drive them off the roads? So we decided on this approach. Let the Government decide how many cars we could tolerate. Let the public decide the price they were prepared to pay to own one of them."

But would not this system mitigate against the lower-paid? "A little, but we have fine public transport."

The scheme works this way: each quarter the Government works out how many new cars it can permit in Singapore (based on numbers scrapped and roads progress) and allocates so many certificates to the four classes of private car, goods vehicles and motorcycles. Would-be owners get a form and make their bid.

In this first quarter, Singapore is to permit 14,000 new vehicles. In the family car category 8,944 citizens bid for 4,583 certificates. The highest bid was more than £4,000, the lowest 33p. Officials counted from the top and the 4,583rd best bid was £1,007. As the lowest successful bid, this set a price for all certificates sold in this category.



Taxed cubs: An area of Singapore restricted to permit-holders during rush hours

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Justice seen to be undone

P.A.J. Waddington

The likelihood that the Maguire family will have their convictions retrospectively quashed, coming in the wake of other scandals during recent months, calls into question the entire criminal justice system.

At the centre of that system is the adversarial approach to evidence — on the face of it, a sensible way of exposing flaws in the opposition's case. Surrounding the accused with various safeguards is supposed to minimize the conviction of the innocent. In actuality the criminal trial is a parody of truth-seeking, akin to the Mad Hatter's tea-party, in which discovering the truth is subordinated to winning.

As anyone who has given evidence in a criminal trial will know, the one thing that one is not allowed to do is "tell it like it is". The inevitable jumble of experience, impressions and feelings are required to be laid out with precision for clinical examination.

Having once given evidence in a motorist case in which a lorry had crossed a red light and hit a car behind which I had been travelling, I met a colleague who had heard my testimony. He remarked that, according to his calculations, I testified that the lorry was travelling at 400 miles an hour and stopped on a sixpence. Such a ridiculous conclusion arose from being asked a series of highly specific questions which effectively divorced experience from evidence.

Cross-examination seizes upon detailed inconsistencies and contradictions in an attempt to discredit testimony. Since the burden of proof is "beyond a reasonable doubt", uncertainty or ambiguity — the very essence of daily experience — are intolerable in court. The aim is not to find out how much or in which respects testimony can be relied upon. It is a zero-sum game in which evidence must be accepted as wholly true or worthless.

The jury, too, is placed in the impossible position of determining guilt on grounds that defy common sense. The choice they are offered is bizarre: not "what, if anything, did the accused do?", but "did the accused do what the prosecution alleges he did?". The possibility of concluding, as might a reasonable person listening to the evidence, that the accused is not guilty as charged but is guilty of something else, is not allowed.

Moreover, this is a decision that must be made "beyond a reasonable doubt": any doubt that the accused may not have committed the offence renders the entire prosecution case null and void. All the while the person who knows most — the accused — is uniquely allowed to remain silent.

In making its decision the jury is not permitted to have at its disposal information which in any other situation would assist valid decision-making. Hearsay evi-

dence is inadmissible, presumably on the grounds that a jury is incapable of weighing it for what it is worth. Nor can jurors hear evidence of previous convictions or court appearances, because, in the bizarre world of the courtroom, making a decision without relevant knowledge of the characters involved is better than knowing what type of people they are. If juries cannot be trusted with this kind of information, they surely cannot be trusted to take such an onerous decision at all.

When the jury has made its decision, the reasons for it not only remain obscure, we make a fetish of keeping it obscure. What it found compelling or questionable cannot be ascertained, so if there should be an appeal, appellate judges are left to speculate as to whether new evidence would have made any significant impact upon a jury's decision.

The *Alice in Wonderland* rules that govern evidence are more than ridiculous; they also corrupt the criminal justice system. The imperative for either side is to win, not to discover the truth of what happened. For the prosecution this amounts to building a case against an identified suspect which excludes the possibility of doubt. CID officers do not spend their time deductively investigating real-life whodunits, but ensuring that all the pieces of the evidential jigsaw fit together with as few gaps as possible.

This threatens the interests of justice in several ways. First, it exacerbates the human tendency to seek information that confirms the initial decision of belief and to disregard information that qualifies, compromises or contradicts it. Second, since the case must exclude doubt, there is an incentive to gild the lily through over-statement and pseudo-precision — in police statements (but few other places) people do things in precise and clearly identified sequences.

Third, if it is clear, for reasons which though compelling are legally inadmissible, that the accused is guilty, there is the strong temptation to fill any gaps with fabricated evidence.

When the criminal justice system fails, as conspicuously as it now has, we turn not to an adversarial charade to find out what went wrong, but to an inquisitorial tribunal like the May Inquiry.

Perhaps the time to adopt an inquisitorial approach is before the system fails, when the case is first being tried, not when it is too late. Instead of deluding ourselves that we have the "best system of criminal justice in the world", which only needs tinkering with, the time has come to make radical changes and adopt the inquisitorial system widely used on the Continent.

The author is director of criminal justice studies at the University of Reading.

...and moreover

CLEMENT FREUD

What is this that this is? I asked the waiter in French, pointing to the menu item, *Le Filet de Rock ou Fumet des Legumes en Vin Blanc* £12.95, in which I had understood all the words except Rock. He said it was a fish, a fish of Provence that came from the rocks and crevices of the sea. "Fusny Freud didn't know that," I overheard a man tell another down the table.

Oh all right, said I, I'll have it — adding that Rock was not a French fish I had ever encountered. He gave me a look that waiters reserve for customers who got less than seven out of 10 in psychology.

It was a serious restaurant: all the waiters spoke English with strong French accents — even the ones who came from Stockholm — and for the first five minutes they played out the full repertoire of their profession: took away the plate and the knife and the fork behind which the six of us had been seated; removed the large glasses and brought small ones; slid the napkins out of the napkin rings, smoothed the linen, placed them in our laps and took away the rings, possibly to a safe deposit box at a Swiss bank. Later they came back with menus, suggested aperitifs and, at the host's behest, I was given the wine list. I chose the more expensive of two Sancerres.

At length, the wine waiter returned with a nicely chilled bottle of the less expensive Sancerre, gave it to me to inspect, grudgingly agreed that it was veritably not the Sancerre that I had ordered, and replaced it with the right one at room temperature. His cousin, the while, was presenting the bread basket, taking innocent delight in giving guests the bread roll most distinctly removed from that to which they had pointed.

A serious restaurant, then, in which the wine is poured to fill one-seventh of the glass, whereafter the waiter removes the bottle to a distant wine-bucket. This forces customers to ask for more wine, to which entreary the sommelier replies, "It is no trouble," and dispenses another thimble-full all round

to make everyone appreciate the importance of the man's presence to the overall enjoyment of the feast.

The place was as full as such places deserve to be — like not — and an hour and 10 minutes after our arrival one noticed the change in the pace of the staff's movement which denotes the imminent arrival of the main course. Our six covered plates, having been identified on the sideboard, were now placed before us, and the most senior of the serving people, she who must have been at least 20 years old, gave a flicker of an eyebrow and the half-dozen silver cloches were simultaneously lifted to display the content of the *oeuvres du maître chef de cuisine* — in my case a rather geylirish looking piece of *scorpius stellaris*, a sub-species of shark known as lesser-spotted dog-fish (dog-fish as the fish hunt in packs), often called rock salmon or rock eel by socially ambitious fish and chip shops such as encourage their clientele to wear yachting caps.

On returning home I browsed among my French cookery books for signs of "rock". Larousse, which proclaims to be the ultimate authority, moves smoothly from Robert, Sauce, to Rogons, de Veau, Escouffier mentions it not, nor Carême. Elizabeth David in a chapter on Mediterranean Fish remarks that rock-salmon can be used as an alternative to real fish, and wise Tom Stobart, whom I respect above all other culinary experts, writes of what the *Auberge de Provence* in Buckingham Gate, London SW1, called "rock": "There are few serious recipes for dog-fish, though in Germany the belly-flaps are considered a delicacy."

It is not a matter about which one would make a major scene, but there is something fundamentally rotten about a French restaurant setting up an offshoot in England, buying the cheapest fish in Billingsgate and selling it back to us enveloped in French words, without even the courtesy of Frenchification — as they do in *Le Biftek avec Pouling Yorkshire*.

Robin Oakley talks to the SDP leader about his plans for the general election

Dr Owen hints at a return to Labour

Dr David Owen yesterday offered broad support for the Labour policy review and signalled that he might yet endorse Neil Kinnock's party at the next election as one to which Social Democrats could safely return. While the SDP leader said there was no question of his ever joining the Conservative Party, he refused to rule out his return at some stage to the Labour Party.

In an interview with *The Times*, Dr Owen said that the prospect of a pact between the SDP and Labour was greater than that of one between his party and the Liberal Democrats. And he hinted that if he did not succeed in securing such an electoral arrangement, he might not himself fight the next election. His mind was not yet made up, because anyone fighting an election had to be ready to serve through the next parliament, and he was not yet ready to give that commitment. "The SDP will carry on regardless, whether I'm there or not."

Dr Owen said that Labour was moving towards social democracy and that it would not be long before Labour MPs with European connections began to use the

words Social Democrat. "I have always said I would never join the Conservative party. I'm not a Conservative. I have admiration for some of the things that Mrs Thatcher does, almost always when she is acting like a Tory, breaking up monopolies, challenging vested interest. But I'm not the slightest bit attracted to the Tory party or government. And I don't find the wets the slightest bit appealing."

As for Labour: "It is extremely unlikely that they would want me or that I would want them. If there was to be an arrangement with the Labour Party it would be better and easier, and carry more credibility, if it was with an SDP that still existed."

But he continued: "If that is not possible, and we have the lunatic course, and all fight each other at the next election, I have no messianic view that I have to tell the British public how to vote. In those circumstances I would have enough difficulty making up my own mind in the privacy of a polling booth. However, I am ready, if there have been enough changes, to choose to help to get an alternative government. I haven't

yet seen it, but Labour has moved a long way."

Dr Owen, once Foreign Secretary in the Callaghan administration, said: "Something makes me stop saying I will never rejoin the Labour Party." And he praised Mr Kinnock, saying: "He has changed a lot. That takes courage. But I don't think the public know if his conversion is real, that is his problem."

Agreeing that on Labour's tax proposals the SDP was finding "increasing common ground", Dr Owen praised Labour's shift on economic and industrial policy, saying: "John Smith, Gordon Brown and Tony Blair have produced a really quite marked shift. There is still a slight tipping of the hat to old style corporatism and a touch of interventionism, but it is a tipping of the hat to say goodbye." What Labour should do, he said, was to adopt the SDP's "big idea" of merging the tax and social security systems. It should drop its complicated tax reforms, which would overload the system.

He praised Labour for being "more positive about the European Community", and he said that there was a "much firmer

edge" about Labour's emphasis on the anti-inflationary value of joining the exchange-rate mechanism of the EMS. He declared: "There is for the first time a sniff of the 1990s about their policy here. It is still only a sniff, but you do get the feeling that, on ERM and the EMS and the EC, it is not just warmed up Callaghanism but that the party has moved on, and that's right."

But Dr Owen made it clear that, apart from a willingness to support proportional representation, any deal between the SDP and Labour would require further movement from Labour on defence. He said: "Kinnock has himself to take on defence. He's too vulnerable on this issue to ignore it. He's got to show a level of understanding and involvement. He's got to show he understands why Mitterrand and Rocard are willing to have a French nuclear deterrent and why they are ready to have air-launched stand-off missiles on their Mirages. There is a case for us having the same on our Tornados."

"Because his conversion is suspect he's got to reinforce the impression that he is serious, and

he has not got a lot of time."

Saying that Mrs Thatcher would fight the next election and "very likely" win it, and the 1990s then belong to the Conservatives, Dr Owen said it would be "sheer lunacy" for the Labour Party, the SDP, the Liberal Democrats and the Green Party to fight each other at that election. "In 1983 and 1987 the opposition parties were genuinely divided on substantial questions. In 1991-92 the situation will be very different. The policies of the opposition parties are much closer. The Labour Party is no longer advocating deeply dangerous and deeply damaging policies."

Dr Owen predicted that Labour would "come down to earth with a bump" next year as its lead in the opinion polls collapsed, and it might then be willing to consider working with others. "There is virtually no chance with the Liberal Democrats, but there is a very small chance with Labour." He himself would stay in politics only "as long as there is a constructive role, as long as there is a real chance of getting together a governing force which would be good for the country."

Faith may move mountains but not the one-trek mind

Bernard Levin on a burden de Klerk shares with Gorbachov: ancient, undying attitudes that defy reform

President de Klerk's *grand tour* seems to be going well; whether he too can go well is still an open question. He is certainly saying things that sound significant, but so is President Gorbachov, who is finding out that although *glasnost* and *perestroika* are fine words, they would butter no parsnips even if the Russian people had any butter, or for that matter any parsnips. Some of the Things crawling about in the political undergrowth of South Africa can give you nightmares, and Mr de Klerk's position is quite as precarious as Mr Gorbachov's, if not more so.

Until the evidence is unambiguous, we should mute the cheers for a free and peaceful South Africa. But we should not allow the cheers to be silenced altogether. Remember that the years when progress seemed a mad idea, so mad that it was not worth even talking about it, were the years in which Mr de Klerk was coming to political maturity. Just as I prophesied the avatar who would come to begin the cleansing of the Soviet Union, and watched without surprise the appearance of Mr Gorbachov with a giant mop in his hand, so I never allowed myself to believe that the ice age in which South Africa lay frozen would or could endure for ever. I was often accused, during the two long nights, of foolish and reckless optimism; well, I am an optimist and I shall never cease to be one, but it was not just that which told me that I would see the Soviet Union free and South Africa fair, the main reason for my immovable conviction will be found summed up, with admirable conciseness, in the seventh chapter of St Matthew, verses 24-27 inclusive.

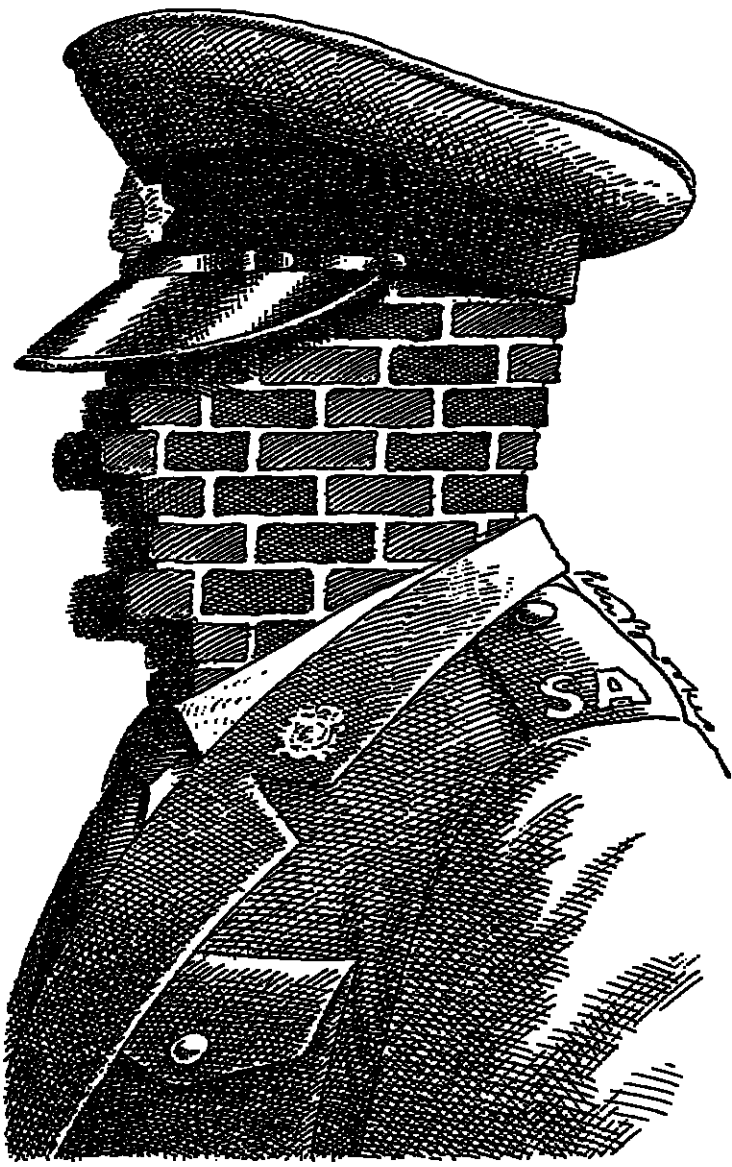
Yet just as Mr Gorbachov, even if he is entirely genuine, is in a race to break the habits of thinking which have been so long and so deeply ingrained in the beliefs and attitudes of his country, so Mr de Klerk, even if he is entirely genuine, is in a race with

those who refuse to become colour-blind.

Which brings me to Piet van der Merwe. Van der Merwe is the archetype stupid Afrikaner, about whom all the stupid-Afrikaner stories are told. (A sample: Lieutenant van der Merwe is asked how he would arrange a firing squad to make absolutely certain that the condemned man is shot; he replies that he would put the victim in a cleared space and have the riflemen form a circle round him. A second sample: Constable van der Merwe is putting in for promotion, and has to answer some test questions, one of which is, "What are rabies and how do you treat them?" Van der Merwe's answer: "Rabies are Jewish priests and I treat them with contempt.") And what the Soviet reformer has to put up with in the form of apparatchiks meticulously trained never to have a thought of any kind, the South African reformer has to put up with in the form of Piet van der Merwe.

Piet, as I may presume to call him (he is really quite a friendly figure), was photographed some weeks ago, at a scene of violence. This particular van der Merwe was a young, smooth-haired policeman, quite good looking and in the thick of the struggle (van der Merwes are not cowards). He was plainly taking his job seriously; his tongue was between his teeth, and his whole demeanour showed the effort he was making. And, without malice aforethought, or indeed anything aforethought, he was doing what he had been trained to do, what he did better than anything else, and what he enjoyed most in the world: he was hitting what he would call a Kaffir over the head.

You must understand that Piet van der Merwe, for all his sterling qualities, can hold in his mind at any time only one thought at most; if the one thought is a large or complicated one, he can grasp only a part of it. It is therefore felt essential that whenever van der Merwe is in a position of some responsibility or power, those



instructing him make sure that they never give him more than one thought, and that, if possible, a simple one.

When van der Merwe joined the police force, he was told that his job was to hit Kaffirs over the head. His superiors, mindful of the limited thought-space in his mind, would have taken care not to complicate things by varying the rule according to the circumstances; they rightly feared the potential confusion in van der Merwe's mind if he was told that he should discriminate by, say, situation, time of day, demeanour

of Kaffir, presence of cameramen, etc. No, better play safe: tell him that all he has to do is hit Kaffirs over the head, an instruction naturally accompanied by reassurance that nothing untoward will happen to him in the way of accusations of brutality or the like.

From that day to this, van der Merwe, with his IQ of 37, has stood foursquare before his duty, and hit Kaffirs over the head; what is more, from this day to when he is buried, he will continue to hit Kaffirs over the head, and if there are any Kaffirs where he is going

after he dies, he will hit those Kaffirs over the head, too.

President de Klerk, like President Gorbachov, has very serious problems to deal with, whether he is the Man on the White Horse or not. But Mr de Klerk, again like Mr Gorbachov, is unable to get down to the immense task before him — which is the transformation not just of a country, but of the entire ethos, attitude and nature which has made that country what it is — without finding a way to persuade van der Merwe to stop hitting Kaffirs over the head.

Of course, van der Merwe has been told from his infancy that Kaffirs are not fully human beings, but a lower order of creation. That, however, is not why he hits them over the head; if he were told they were god-like beings, but that nevertheless he had to hit them over the head, over the head is where he would hit them. After all, nobody told him in the first place why he was to hit Kaffirs over the head, and he certainly did not think to ask.

Some think that the devil rules the world. Of these, many would point to van der Merwe to support their claim. They would speak of his pointless cruelty, his racial prejudice, his disregard for justice, his brutalizing of himself. They miss the point; I go so far as to say that van der Merwe is not basically a bad man at all. He is just a man who has had, throughout his life, only one thought in his head, and it has never occurred to him that he might change that thought for another one. Until he does, until the characteristic sound of South Africa ceases to be the thwack of van der Merwe's club on the head of the nearest Kaffir, that beautiful country will never cleanse the stain on her beauty, and President de Klerk will draw up Constitutions in vain.

*Commenting on the collapse of B & C, I prophesied that Sir Peter Thompson, executive chairman, would get a huge "golden handshake" from the crash. He assures me that he would get nothing by way of handshake, and for his entire remuneration only a twentieth of the sum I mentioned; I accept his assurance and offer him apologies for my injustice.

Down to the sea in trains

A plea has gone out from British Rail for ideas for a name for the new Channel Tunnel train service, a name that must rival Concorde in the public imagination. Tickets for the first run through the tunnel are offered by BR to any *Times* reader who can come up with a winning suggestion. Some £30,000 has already been spent on consultants, who have produced more than 5,000 suggestions, not one of which has been judged acceptable. The mole, the albatross and anything beginning with Euro have already been rejected.

The task is a considerable challenge, for British Rail's brief is near impossible. Like Concorde, the name must be applicable to both the individual train and the service. There must be no hint of underground, undersea, tunneling or water, all of which, research has shown, evoke negative images

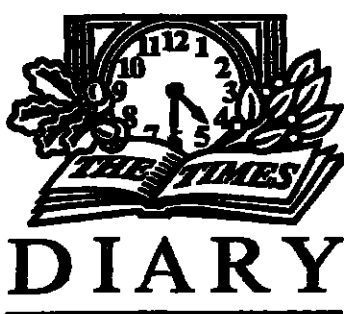
among passengers. The word must appeal equally to British, French, German and Dutch users — and American tourists as well. Yet because of special sensitivities in Belgium, to which the train will run, the word must not be French or Flemish.

Since final design work on the trains cannot be completed until a name, with all its connotations, is chosen, great urgency surrounds the selection. The train is due to run in 1993. *The Times*, as ever, stands ready to play its part in resolving this international crisis. All entries to our letters page.

Tisdall spurned

Labour's frontbench, busy seeking the mole who leaked a draft copy of its new policy statement to Michael Heseltine, has just turned down a job application from Sarah Tisdall, who went to prison in 1984 for leaking confidential memos from Heseltine himself, then Secretary of State for Defence. At the time, Labour MPs rushed to defend the Foreign Office clerk, who got a six-month sentence for leaking to *The Guardian* copies of memos which Heseltine had sent to the Prime Minister about the arrival of cruise missiles. Neil Kinnock attacked the prosecution as "authoritarian", and at least three Labour MPs visited her in prison.

Tisdall, who worked in Sir Geoffrey Howe's secretariat team when he was Foreign Secretary, must therefore have expected at least an interview when she applied for the post of researcher to John Prescott, the shadow transport minister — a job which would



have involved her in dealing with media inquiries. But despite her experience and the celebrity she once enjoyed in Labour circles, Tisdall failed even to make the shortlist.

With the party anxious to trace its own mole, and the possibility growing of a Labour government, is its enthusiasm for freedom of information diminishing? Not at all, says a Prescott aide. "Miss Tisdall was not suitable for this job." Tisdall, however, is clearly a forgiving soul. She continues to read the paper that landed her in jail: the advertisement for the job was placed in *The Guardian*.

Hain's big try

Anti-apartheid campaigner Peter Hain, once the most hated man in Welsh rugby, is about to become a non-playing member of the principality's finest club, Hain was chairman of the campaign that opposed the Springbok tour of 1969-70 and organized demonstrations at every match. The former Young Liberal, now Labour's prospective parliamentary candidate for the safe Neath seat, has been invited to become a

member of the local club. Hain recently joined members of the Neath club committee at the Welsh Cup final at Cardiff Arms Park, scene of one of the worst demonstrations 20 years ago.

Hain, however, says he has no fears of being put on the spot by members of the Neath team who favour playing in South Africa. Seven Neath players are now touring Namibia with the Welsh side, but before they left they signed statements supporting the sports boycott of South Africa, and the Welsh Rugby Union has taken the same stand. "The Welsh Rugby Union and Neath have swung fully behind the policy that I have been advocating," says Hain. "We can now enjoy our rugby standing shoulder to shoulder united on the sports boycott." Neath's nickname? The Blacks.

It is considered revolutionary that churches may shortly be able to advertise on British television — but on packets of condoms? It is happening in South Africa, at least, where a Dutch Reformed Church in Cape Town has been granted permission to advertise the Gospel on contraceptives distributed free by medical clinics. Each packet will bear the message that the condoms are being offered to counter Aids, but that it is God's will that sex should be part of marriage.

Time and a half

Attempts by the master watchmaker George Daniels to revive the British tradition of horology have reaped rich rewards. He produces only one gold pocket-watch a year, but they sell at more than £100,000 a

time, and he has a queue of customers. "There is an enormous market. Every year the world seems to get a little richer," he says. Daniels has produced just 22 pocket watches since he began in 1968, and six go on show for the first time in public at Garrards in London today. Clocks and watches are a lifelong obsession, he admits, and although each timepiece takes him 3,000 hours to produce, he insists: "I have never worked in my life. Creating watches is pure pleasure, with its historical, intellectual, technical, aesthetic, useful and amusing qualities."

Ring of fire

What the rest of us know as Ulster's bandit country is known to conservation branch officials in Northern Ireland's Department of the Environment as a very beautiful district. The department announced this week that it plans to designate the Ring of Gullion in South Armagh as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), and invites public comment. The area is indeed beautiful, comprising an extinct volcano, Slieve Gullion, encircled by a ring of lower hills, enclosing small whitewashed farmsteads, heathland, mires, bogs and woods. There is, however, bound to be at least one objection — although it may not be formally lodged. The Ring of Gullion is also the operational theatre of the IRA's most enduring and successful unit, which lies low there between raids and uses it for swift access to the adjoining border. It will be interesting to see whether designation as an AONB will increase the flow of visitors.

I think he's in with a chance



Our



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

MR GORBACHOV'S NEW DEAL

The announcement of a referendum in the Soviet Union on President Gorbachov's latest economic package was attended yesterday by a degree of confusion unusual even by Kremlin standards. Assuming that this unprecedented consultation of nearly 300 million citizens of the Union does indeed take place, a fascinating question must arise. How will Mr Gorbachov avoid it becoming a referendum, not merely on the "new deal", or even on the Government led by Mr Nikolai Ryzhkov, the Prime Minister, but on the Gorbachov presidency and the Communist Party's right to rule?

The package itself is an unsatisfactory hybrid of more or less arbitrary price and wage rises, public works programmes to soak up unemployment, and a modest attempt to deregulate some industries. It differs from Franklin Roosevelt's original New Deal in almost every respect, beginning with the problem it is intended to address: a bankrupt command economy rather than merely a depressed free-market one. Whereas Roosevelt sought to alleviate unemployment after the Depression by proto-Keynesian methods — with very little success until American rearmament began after 1939 — Mr Gorbachov is trying to prevent huge unemployment by tinkering with the misdirection of resources, instead of unleashing market forces to subvert the entire centralised system.

Thus the question which the referendum will purport to answer — "Do you support the introduction of a market economy?" — is unrelated to the ragbag of decrees which Mr Ryzhkov will unveil on television today. Not that the Soviet peoples will cast their votes on such an abstract question anyway. The risk for Mr Gorbachov is that they will be tempted simply to register their despair at the prospect of yet more sacrifices in living standards, with no tangible return and with the communists still in charge. They will say to themselves: "That's another fine mess you've got us into, Mikhail Sergeyevich!"

If the result goes against the Government, the architect of the master-plan, Mr Gorbachov himself, will coolly walk away from the consequences. He will plead as his excuse the constitutional separation of powers,

which obliges the Prime Minister, Mr Ryzhkov (who fought against the plan until he saw that his job was at risk), to accept responsibility for defeat. And who would then appoint a new Prime Minister? The same Mr Gorbachov. Heads he wins, tails they lose.

A resounding "no" to the package might be deemed less than constructive by Mr Gorbachov's remaining admirers in the West, among whom Mrs Thatcher is still the most fervent. Why, though, should a Russian, never mind a Ukrainian or a Transcaucasian, help to pull the President's chestnuts out of the fire? He has promised new deals too often before. However one looks at the present offering, it has little to recommend it to the ordinary citizen. Russians do not necessarily march on their stomachs, luckily for their leaders. But they need something credible for a creed, and Mr Gorbachov's version of centrally-planned "market socialism" is not credible.

"First stuff yourself; morality comes later," wrote the young Bertolt Brecht. Today's reformist communists claim to be realists, but they yield nothing in cynicism to Brecht, who was a public apologist and private critic of Stalin. The Gorbachovs of 1990 are democratic to the nth degree, as long as they alone can dictate the agenda. As soon as they right to do so is called into question, they slap down their critics. A new law awaits the rubber stamp of the Supreme Soviet, designed to punish with up to six years in jail those who insult the President — a crime which will differ only in name from the archaic offence of *lese-majesté*.

Given that defeat in the referendum is quite likely, what is the President's real motive in allowing it to be held? Is he trying to dish Mr Boris Yeltsin by outbidding his most dangerous rival in the democracy stakes? Or is it not more likely that Mr Gorbachov — still smarting from his public humiliation on May Day but as sure of his own destiny as ever — now hopes to strengthen himself by a direct appeal to the masses for a personal endorsement? Marx himself called this tactic Bonapartism; he had withering things to say about it. But who in Moscow reads Marx these days?

HALFWAY TO REDEMPTION

The dramatic policy implications of the Prime Minister's pledge to treat the environment as a tenant with a "full repairing lease" will be apparent when the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change publishes its report on global warming tomorrow. Without action to curb emissions of "greenhouse gases", the report concludes, global mean temperatures within 40 years will average between 1.4 and 2.8 per cent above pre-industrial levels.

The main lines of Britain's response to these findings have now been agreed by a Cabinet committee and are revealed today in *The Times*. The centrepiece of this autumn's White Paper on the environment will be a national strategy for controlling man-made emissions of carbon dioxide. The aim will be to freeze CO₂ emissions at 1990 levels by 2005.

Environmentalists are likely to criticize the Government for excessive modesty, drawing unfavourable comparisons with the Dutch Government's target of holding emissions to 1988 levels by 2000. Even so, compliance will imply reducing projected levels of CO₂ emissions by 20 per cent. Politicians have to consider not only whether that is technically feasible but what measures are cost-effective, and will be accepted by the public.

Ministers are convinced that Britain can meet the 2005 target without too much economic disruption. The policy is not just to rely on exhortation, as in the past, but to concentrate on energy conservation and on fiscal incentives and penalties to change consumption patterns. This approach, based on experience of the oil price rise of the 1970s, is sound. More dubious are the assumptions that a 1970s-style recession can at the same time be avoided, or that the target can be met, as Mrs Thatcher insists it must, without interfering with "the great car economy".

The main culprit today is not vehicle exhaust, but power stations, which are responsible for a third of Britain's CO₂ emissions. There is considerable potential here: replacing coal-fired generation by natural gas would cut emissions by 40 per cent, and co-generation of energy and heat or combined cycle power generation would produce further savings. The considerable cost would have to

be met largely by consumers. Unless the price of electricity rises to reflect its true "environmental" cost, there will be no incentive for builders and home-owners to use less. Scientists estimate that energy requirements for new homes could be halved, those of commercial buildings reduced by 75 per cent.

The Government appears resigned to facing the electorate with an unpopular programme of sharp energy price increases. The question is whether fiscal measures alone — building on the Chancellor's success in persuading motorists to switch to lead-free petrol — will curb the other main source of carbon dioxide pollution, the motor vehicle. Stricter regulations on vehicle maintenance and speed limits would produce only marginal savings. The cars of the future may well be powered by hydrogen, natural gas or electricity. People may be induced by tax changes to opt for alternatively-powered vehicles even if they produce lower performance.

Yet the impact of these savings would be negated if, as predicted by last year's transport White Paper, the number of British vehicles increases by anything from 83 to 142 per cent within 35 years. Even without any greenhouse effect, London has long needed the equivalent of the *Réseau Express Régional* (RER) rapid transit railway which serves the Paris region. Singaporean solutions such as alternate-day permits or rationing of vehicle licences are unworkable in Britain. Commuters will continue to pollute the air with traffic jams unless there are efficient, reasonably priced alternatives.

The Government is determined to make energy, not transport, bear the brunt of conservation strategy. If that strategy is to carry credibility, transport policy will have to be galvanized. However alien the idea is to Mrs Thatcher — her aversion to rail is well-documented — this means heavy public-sector investment in transport. Such a commitment would be electorally wise: consumers faced with energy-based cost-of-living increases would at least be assured that the Government was prepared to break ideological moulds itself.

PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT

A well-kept secret was let out of the mailbox yesterday by Sir Gordon Borrie, director general of fair trading. The secret is that an organization exists to save people from junk mail. It is called the Mailing Preference Service, has existed for seven years and is supported by the junk mail industry.

The MPS not only exists; it holds an annual luncheon. Yesterday it lunched Sir Gordon, and he ungratefully repaid its hospitality by more or less accusing it of refusing to blow its own trumpet. Sir Gordon hesitated to suggest out loud that an indiscriminate mail-shot was out of order. But he said, in O.F.T.-speak, that "an effective publicity campaign has to be properly resourced and targeted to reach its audience". May the MPS (Freepost 22, London W1E 7EZ) be overwhelmed by the public response.

The direct selling industry is currently enjoying a boom, expanding by about 10 per cent a year. This is immensely profitable, both to the Royal Mail and, presumably, to the direct sellers themselves. But junk mail is not so good for trees: a correspondent to this newspaper estimated that he received more newspaper than he could read through the post than six pounds of such mail through the post a year, which works out on the back of the junk mail envelope at 60,000 tons a year for the whole country. We could apparently spend eight months of our lives reading junk mail, if we did not do the expected thing, and junk it.

Asking the industry to publicize its anti-junk mail service is like asking butchers to promote vegetarianism. Let us, the industry must have

said to itself, set up some backstreet shell company so we can say we have done our bit. Let us keep as quiet as possible this list of those cantankerous members of society who refuse to be junk mailed. A valiant third of a million people have stumbled upon the MPS in one way or another. The industry has undertaken to remove their names from its postal selling data bases. It may be no coincidence that while Sir Gordon's office spent the afternoon gathering and then dispensing information about the MPS, the service itself had taken the phone off the hook.

Junk mail is all about lists. When anyone orders anything by post or answers an advertisement, his name goes on a list. Clubs sell their lists of members. There is a major trade in electoral registers. The art of junk mail is targeting, based for instance on the knowledge that clergymen prefer to order wine by post or that dentists drive Volvos. All these spurious correlations of a nation's spending habits are refinements to be fed into the industry's computers, to improve the efficiency of the bulk unsolicited mailing which is the industry's *raison d'être*.

Meanwhile America is hoist with its own ingenuity. The organizers of the national census are struggling to raise the rate of reply from the public much above the 50 per cent level. The reason appears to be that the average American has thrown his census form away, assuming it is yet more junk mail.

Observer's view of Romanian polls

From Mrs Edwina Currie, MP for Derbyshire South (Conservative)

Sir, How can you begin to call the Romanian people "gullible" (leading article, May 22) when they have just gone through a bloody revolution which required courage of the highest order? And how dare you imply that the attitudes of the British observers were "frivolous" and not "robust" when we agreed with the very large party from the USA and disagreed with a French socialist and some lawyers from Sweden?

My colleague from the Labour Party officially representing the British Parliament was not Roy Hattersley — whom I did not see at any time during my visit, but who appears to have come to the same conclusions — but the well-respected Robert Wareing, MP for Liverpool, West Derby.

We reckon we know intimidation and ballot rigging when we see it, and we are certain that what we observed in Romania included nothing of the sort, but was in fact as free and fair an election as could be achieved by people for whom this was all completely new.

Your leader talks glibly about street violence and the "disillusioned sansculottes". We saw two such "demonstrations", in the main squares of Bucharest and Timisoara. In both cases the event was more of a daily political rally; the Romanians have discovered Hyde Park Corner. Despite a massive disruption of traffic in Bucharest (they have discovered traffic jams too, now petrol is no longer in short supply), the police and army have for weeks shown enormous restraint.

This was no Trafalgar Square poll tax demo, with baton-wielding police or tear gas. Instead there is pop music, popcorn from the burgeoning private stalls, and people talking politics long into the night.

The demonstrators are hardly "sansculottes" either. They tend

to be the intelligentsia from the university, whose debates have a strong flavour of the Sorbonne in 1968. This lot, however, are not for Marxism but in favour of more rapid privatisation — a matter of some debate in our own country and elsewhere.

The inhabitants of the squares are convinced of conspiracies everywhere. We saw no evidence of such conspiracy. Incompetence, yes; the election could have been better conducted and we would want to see much simpler procedures, more assistance at the polling stations, and more rapid counting next time. A more vigorous press and media on western lines is also essential. Inexperience was, however, offset by the determination of the voters and the helpers from all parties at the local level to make the thing work.

As for the landslide personal victory of President Iliescu, the fact is he had no effective opponents. One had been in France for 14 years and the other left his country for exile half a century ago. I wonder how we might have voted in 1945, had two of the three candidates for prime minister spent the war in comfort in Canada? Handicapped like that, the minor parties did as well as could be expected. I hope they can recover, perhaps with advice from equivalent parties in the West, and learn how to get out of Bucharest on to the doorsteps to fight elections properly next time.

Many of the observers were thrilled with what they saw. We felt we were present at the birth of a new democracy, more fragile than some of its neighbours, with a more painful start, but with every hope for the future of this attractive country.

Yours sincerely,
EDWINA CURRIE,
House of Commons,
May 22.

Guatemala abduction

From Mr Robert Kee

Sir, On the evening of May 3 an event took place in the capital of Guatemala which suggests a further sinister omen for that beautiful country's precarious civilian Government under its Christian Democrat President, Vinicio Cerros Arévalo. A young man, Luis Miguel Solís Pajaro, whose own Christian Democrat father and three brothers had "disappeared" in 1984 before the return to civilian rule, was abducted on the streets of Guatemala City and has not been heard of since.

What makes this "disappearance" particularly ominous — it is one of hundreds in recent years — is the fact that Pajaro is a member of Condeg, the National Council for the Displaced, and the first to suffer this fate. He was, in addition, Condeg's delegate to the National Dialogue set up by the Guatemalan Government itself in accordance with the Central American Peace Accord of 1987.

Amnesty International has issued an urgent appeal on his behalf but so far there has been no sign of him. Last week his wife who has filed an official writ of *habeas corpus* was summoned to a morgue to see if she could identify a murdered and tortured body that had been found. Fortunately this was not Pajaro.

It could soon be if representations are not made at once at all levels by those with a concern for human rights and for the good name of the people and Government of Guatemala.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT KEE,
82 Camberwell Grove, SE5,
May 20.

Housewives' choice

From Mr John F. Martin

Sir, Apparently students at Southampton have been instructed not to use certain words, one of which is "housewife". I must agree with this, especially since as an ex-Serviceman I have a distant memory of being issued with a housewife (pronounced huzzi), i.e., a pocket sewing kit when I was initially kitted out.

Might I suggest that we do as in the United States, where any married woman with no profession, trade, occupation or vocation is called a house-maker. Apart from being more descriptive of the duties performed, it has a much better sound about it.

Yours truly,
JOHN F. MARTIN,
57 Tychhurst Hill,
Loughton, Essex.

Health exercise

From Mr Alasdair Liddell

Sir, Jill Sherman's report (May 17) of our simulation exercise on the new internal market in health care was inaccurate in two important respects, her description of market "failure".

First, she omitted the fact that we deliberately set out to test the new arrangements to failure, so that we could learn how to make them successful in practice, to the benefit of our patients and populations. There is nothing new in testing to failure — Volvo's marketing strategy was for a time based on crashing its motor cars — and it can produce valuable learning, as indeed it did in our case.

Second, her report only gave half the story: the simulation did suggest that the market "would fail", but only unless a clear framework of health and quality-outcome objectives to guide purchasing was negotiated and agreed between district health authorities, general practitioners and local authorities in a particular locality.

This is a powerful message which needs action now by those agencies to ensure that the potential for the health service reforms to deliver real health and quality benefits to patients is realised.

Yours sincerely,
ALASDAIR LIDDELL
(Regional General Manager),
East Anglian Regional Health Authority,
Union Lane, Chesterton,
Cambridge,
May 18.

Police and the public

From Mr P. G. Forbes

Sir, From news incidents we now have the fashionable stereotype image of the police... discourteous, brutal, racist and corrupt. On the other hand, many offenders seem so innocent, so and women police officers who struggle against almost impossible odds to preserve our society and who must now surely be fired of being reviled by the very people they protect.

Yours faithfully,
PHIL FORBES,
9 Brooklynn Close,
Waltham Chase, Hampshire.

From the Chief Executive of Crime Concern

Sir, Your reports (May 21, 22) seem to imply that Crime Concern is accusing chief constables of ob-

struction of the growth of Neighbourhood Watch.

In our report, "Neighbourhood Watch and the Police", we make no such allegation. The consultation we conducted with police officers from 40 forces revealed that a break on development had to be applied in some areas because of pressure on police resources. The whole point of the consultation was to find the most effective ways of managing Neighbourhood Watch without making unrealistic demands on the police.

The remarkable growth of Neighbourhood Watch since its inception in 1982 to 83,000 schemes now is a testament to the commitment of both the police and the public to creating safer communities.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL WHISKIN,
Chief Executive,
Crime Concern,
David Murray John Building,
Brunel Centre,
Swindon, Wiltshire.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

NHS facilities and ward closures

From the Chairman and the Honorary Secretary of the Intensive Care Society

Sir, Approximately 1 per cent of all acute hospital beds in the UK are designated for intensive care. However over the past two decades demand for intensive-care facilities has increased.

In other countries of Europe the proportion of intensive-care beds is up to 5 per cent and in the United States more than 10 per cent.

A ratio of one nurse to each patient is considered the minimum, but complex treatment may require more than two to one. The number of trained nurses is decreasing in many units whilst in others trained nurses cannot be employed because of the shortage of money. Critically-ill patients are being denied intensive treatment.

Project 2000, the new nurse-training scheme, will be fully operational by 1994 and the combined effect has been estimated to mean a shortfall of 16,000 people to nursing. Ordinary wards will no longer be fully staffed by qualified nurses and intensive-care beds will come under even greater pressure.

As far as we know, the Government has not acknowledged that intensive care is an essential national service and the health service review is unlikely to help the situation since intensive care is very expensive. Whatever is planned for the non-urgent patients, the health service must continue to accept responsibility for emergency care and provide it regardless of financial constraints.

Yours etc.,
E. MAJOR
(Chairman),
GUY ROUTH
(Secretary),
Intensive Care Society,
9 Bedford Square, WCI,
May 23.

Church repairs

From the Reverend Giles Hunt

Sir, Six years ago we were very grateful for a Department of the Environment grant of 40 per cent of the cost of a part of our church repairs. By the time our present quinquennial repairs are done, some £100,000 will have been spent on this church over a 10-year period, of which over £13,000 will have been VAT. Even if we had again got a 40 per cent (maximum rate) Government grant, we would barely have recovered what we paid in tax; as it is, we will be well down.

Government grants are far costlier to administer than charitable grants (for which we are also very grateful). An English Heritage architect must visit the church at least twice, and approve any specification, thus duplicating the work already done by the church's own architect. Architect time (plus VAT) doesn't come cheap.

Also, English Heritage officials must wade through up to 50 architects' quinquennial reports a week; their time, too, costs money. And there can be a cost to the local church, for no work can start without prior approval, and delay costs money.

Would it not be far better for English Heritage simply to grant a VAT exemption certificate to any church that they consider eligible on heritage grounds? They could of course insist that no work be done without a faculty or archdeacon's certificate, and stipulate that they approve the church's choice of architect.

Some churches of quite outstanding merit would still deserve and need a grant, but let English Heritage concentrate on them and not, as at present, get involved in all the others.

Yours faithfully,
GILES HUNT,
St Catherine's Vicarage,
Preston Lane,
Faversham, Kent.
May 14.

Raising tax rate

From his Honour Judge Galpin

Sir, David Butler ("How deep the Labour allure?", May 17) speaks of the Labour proposal to raise the top rate of income tax from 40p to 50p in the £ as "a 10 per cent hike in income tax for the rich".

It is no such thing. It is a 25 per cent hike, and you would not have to be all that rich to incur it.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN GALPIN,
St Bruno House,
Charters Road,
Sunningdale, Berkshire.
May 17.

structing the growth of Neighbourhood Watch.

In our report, "Neighbourhood Watch and the Police", we make no such allegation. The consultation we conducted with police officers from 40 forces revealed that a break on development had to be applied in some areas because of pressure on police resources. The whole point of the consultation was to find the most effective ways of managing Neighbourhood Watch without making unrealistic demands on the police.

The remarkable growth of Neighbourhood Watch since its inception in 1982 to 83,000 schemes now is a testament to the commitment of both the police and the public to creating safer communities.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL WHISKIN,
Chief Executive,
Crime Concern,
David Murray John Building,
Brunel Centre,
Swindon, Wiltshire.

Quarrying at Stowe

From Mr E. V. Reynolds and others

Sir, The first Headmaster of Stowe, J. F. Roxburgh, stated that "any boy educated at Stowe would recognise beauty for the rest of his life". As Roxburgh's successors we have done our utmost to preserve Stowe for future generations and are proud that our efforts have culminated in the gift, aided by a most generous benefactor, of the gardens to the National Trust last year.

Attempts to quarry sand and gravel at Chackmore in 1964 and 1972 were rejected; it is ironic that hardly is the ink dry on the agreement with the National Trust (involving substantial public grants from the National Heritage Memorial Fund and English Heritage) than an application is made to quarry gravel within a few hundred yards of these historic grounds (report, early editions, May 12, letters, May 15).

One of the glories of the landscape is the chain of lakes across the south front, which depend on the stability of the water table. These lakes are now threatened. The peace of our neighbours in Chackmore, Akeley, and Buckingham is also threatened. We hope that this newest application for a quarry will be rejected firmly once and for all.

Yours faithfully,
E. V. REYNOLDS (1949-58),
D. CRICHTON-MILLER (1958-63),
R. O. DRAYSON (1964-79),
CHRISTOPHER TURNER (1979-89),
Stowe School, Buckingham.
May 22.

Living language

From Mr A. M. Mackintosh

Sir, Dr Martin (May 22) is being pedantic in criticising the GCSE English paper instructions. Hemingway's title, "For whom the bell tolls", is a quotation from John Donne. Does Dr Martin insist that his students use 16th-century English? I know it is not quite dead yet, but the bell has been tolling a long time for "whom".

Yours faithfully,
A. M. MACKINTOSH,
St Albans Farm,
West Woodlands,
Frome, Somerset.

From Mr C. E. de Salis

Sir, Hemingway might indeed have called his novel *Who the bell is tolling for?* if he had been reading Macbeth, act IV, scene 3: "... The dead man's knell is there scarce ask'd for who".

Such are the mysteries of English usage!

Yours,
C. E. de SALIS,
Tower House,
West Street,
Rye, East Sussex.
May 22.

From Mr David Terry

Sir, I was intrigued to read (report, May 21) that Dolly Pentreath, who died in 1777, was the last Cornish speaker and that she refused to speak English. Who did she speak to?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID TERRY,
28 Hill Grove Crescent,
Kidderminster, Worcestershire.

From Mr J. P. Moir

Sir, When she died in 1777, Dolly Pentreath may well have been the last Cornish speaker, but the language did not become extinct until 1782. Dolly Pentreath predeceased her parrot by five years.

Yours faithfully,
J. P. MOIR,
St George's House,
27 High Street,
Sandwich, Kent.
May 22.

HEALTH

When using one's loaf can help the problem drinker

Millers will rejoice at recent reports suggesting that British drinkers, who eat more bread than Australians, are in consequence less likely to suffer brain impairment. Dr Jean Lennane, an Australian doctor interested in alcohol-related medical problems, bases this claim on the damage which can be done to the intellect by deficiency of thiamine, Vitamin B1. Bread, particularly wholemeal, is a rich source of thiamine. Heavy drinkers, bread eaters or not, suffer from thiamine deficiency for several complex reasons: absorption of the vitamin through the small intestine is reduced even if their diet is vitamin-rich. The cause of this is unknown, although overactive guts are one factor. Even after thiamine has been absorbed into the system, an alcohol-damaged liver is unable to utilize it efficiently.

Dr Lennane claims that she has found signs of intellectual impairment in hard-drinking politicians and company directors more often than in other professions. The symptoms, known as Wernicke's encephalopathy or, if they are irreversible, Korsakoff's psychosis, are well charted because they stem from damage to a very small, circumscribed portion of the brain. The patients suffer absolute loss of recent memory, a deficiency which they compensate for by filling the memory gap with imagined experiences; fortunately for them it is also associated with a mild euphoria.

Dr Lennane describes the forgetful businessman who loses his ability to plan ahead, who becomes confused and inflexible, with a reluctance to acquire new skills, as having the signs of thiamine deficiency. Many doctors would feel that they were suffering from a generalized loss of brain structure due to overall malnutrition or multiple

small strokes. Brain scans show that these people have widespread brain shrinkage, with the frontal cortex being particularly badly affected. As Dr Lennane expresses it: "The company director is only able to survive because men have secretaries to act as their frontal lobes."

Heavy drinkers may suffer from a wide variety of other Vitamin B group deficiencies as well as lack of thiamine. They are often short of Vitamin B6, pyridoxine, the vitamin famed for its use in the treatment of pre-menstrual tension, and nicotinic acid. Intake of vitamins A, C and D is adversely affected by high alcohol intake: 44 per cent of alcoholics are short of Vitamin A, 36 per cent of Vitamin C, and Vitamin D levels are almost always universally low. Intestinal malabsorption and pancreatic disease exacerbate any dietary deficiency but the most important cause is that, since alcohol is energy rich, it is often used to replace more nutritious foods - particularly if the general lifestyle becomes confused.

Brain damage to heavy drinkers occurs for reasons other than malnutrition. After heavy drinking on an empty stomach, the blood-sugar level may fall to a point where the brain is poorly nourished and damage occurs. If this is repeated too often the damage may become permanent, hence the importance of taking food with alcohol.

The good news is that, with treatment, cerebral function usually improves, and even the changes revealed by scans are partly reversible. All drinkers are well advised to supplement three good meals a day, taken to avoid low blood sugars, with additional vitamins. But they should be careful to avoid excessive iron intake, which might further damage an already

MEDICAL BRIEFING

DR THOMAS STUTTAFFORD



compromized liver. Given these precautions, it would seem unnecessary to add thiamine to the beer, as has been proposed in Australia.

Babies cursed by a lack of love

The life of the average British toddler contrasts sharply with that of the 14,000 Romanian children under the age of six who are now being brought up in orphanages. The orphans, 25 to a ward, about 150 to a unit, are fed for 5p a day. Inevitably, life in the orphanages is Dickensian. The untrained staff are too busy to pick the toddlers up and too starved of cash

to keep them free of scabies and rickets. The children never escape from solitary confinement behind cot bars. Feeding time is unemotional and basic, beer bottles are filled with a blended vegetable mush, then a bottle dropped into each cot.

The children, reared without human contact, neither laugh nor cry - they have long since found that their tears will never be answered. They have not learnt to talk, and address all people regardless of sex as "Mama". When western health teams put the children together they stare blankly but warily around them, for unlike normal babies they have no interest in each other, do not touch or prod their cot-mates, let alone play together.

British experts are pessimistic about

the long-term outlook for children who are emotionally and physically deprived in their early years. In the experience of Dr Barry Lewis, a consultant paediatrician, previously deprived children who are later well cared for may lose their distinctive withdrawn, suspicious expression but will never learn either to accept or give love as spontaneously as other people, and as they grow older may well develop aggressive characteristics. Physically the prescription of tender loving care produces an immediate growth spurt, but it is Dr Lewis's impression that, once stunted, a deprived child never fully catches up either physically or mentally.

● The Romanian Orphanage Trust funds a medical team and supports orphanages. Contributions to any branch of Lloyds Bank or the Bank of Scotland.

A new view on sore throats

George London, the Wagnerian singer, said that a performer's voice was his capital. "When I sing properly I only use the interest on my voice and keep the capital intact, when I force my voice I am spending the capital." The last election campaign provided a good contrast between the opposing speaking styles of Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Mr Neil Kinnock. Mrs Thatcher, it is rumoured, spent one and a half hours getting the right intonation into her voice for a particularly important phrase. On the other hand, Mr Kinnock squandered his capital as he toured the country and became vocally bankrupt before polling day so that he was forced to attend the voice clinic at the Middlesex Hospital.

This clinic is one of nine run by the National Health Service. In London last week the first private voice clinic was opened at the Harley Street Clinic. It will, like its Health Service counterparts, provide a comprehensive diagnostic and treatment service. Modern equipment allows the larynx to be examined without an anaesthetic, and the patients as well as the doctors are able to view the laryngeal chords on a coloured television screen.

Direct laryngoscopy allows a patient's symptoms - whether loss of range, hoarseness, problems with voice control, throat pain or discomfort, or even excessive voice tiredness - to be immediately diagnosed. Any patient whose hoarseness persists for more than three weeks despite treatment always needs urgent investigation to exclude the possibility of serious disease. But if the troubles stem only from misuse of the voice, or from faulty breathing, speech therapy can be instituted. Ear, nose and throat surgeons emphasize that aspirin gargles, or even large doses of aspirin by mouth, should not be used to treat laryngitis. Aspirin encourages bleeding into the vocal chords.

Medical students are taught to remember that chronic laryngitis traditionally attacks the boxer, the barrow-boy and the barman. The boxer because his nose has been flattened and his nasal passages and sinuses blocked; the barrow-boy because he is always shouting; the barman because his vocal chords are subjected to tobacco smoke and bathed in the fumes of alcoholic drinks. A politician's life can, and often does, combine the risk of both the barrow-boy and barman but now any aspiring Prime Ministers can watch their vocal chords in action and thereby learn to speak without torturing them.

BREATHING SPACE: Lawrie Smith

I DON'T normally dream, but I dreamed a lot during the Whitbread Round the World race because as skipper I was never fully unconscious. We had four-hour watches on Rothmans, and by the time you had got all your gear off, eaten, taken an hour to get to sleep, and been woken up 15 minutes before your next watch was due, you'd be lucky to have had two hours.

By the time you have been out there a week it gets so you can't feel your toes and people with rheumatism start to suffer. There's nothing you can do, you just put up with it.

We had lots of stuff on board to protect our skin from the weather, that's essential. All the boats were given free face cream, shampoos and stuff for the lips. You had to layer that on and wear sunglasses and a hat otherwise the heat, particularly in the southern ocean, would make you keel over. When it gets cold again, you wear man-made fibre clothes, not cotton, because that absorbs water and doesn't dry. Still, you are permanently damp and there



We had those special drinks which were full of carbohydrates for energy, and minerals, but I didn't miss anything in particular. I have no favourite food, although occasionally I felt like a beer.

For four or five months before the race we spent five days a week running four miles in the morning, then we went to a police gym to climb ropes and do circuit training or to a Nautilus centre to pump iron, and we would end up on the playing field with a football. I never do any exercise normally, I have to have a reason because I'm lazy and you have to be fairly disciplined. I play a bit of squash, that's all. The biggest problem on the boat was three or four weeks doing nothing. Some of the crew did press-ups or sit-ups, but I didn't do much.

I don't do anything special to relax. I suppose I am pretty healthy, although I'm a bit tired. I've never had anything seriously wrong with me. I had a broken nose once because someone hit me - I never got the chance to ask why.

Interview by HEATHER KIRBY

A wonder-drug for women?

Will long-term tests on tamoxifen back up claims that it could prevent breast cancer? Ann Kent reports

Thousands of women will be given the chance of avoiding the three curses of ageing - breast cancer, heart disease and osteoporosis, the bone-thinning disease. They will be invited to participate in a controversial trial, taking a potent anti-cancer drug every day for at least five years.

The women will also be offered a powerful carrot in the form of regular and thorough medicals, which will include tests of blood fats and bone density and screening for breast and ovarian cancers.

Four hundred British women considered at high risk of developing breast cancer have already taken part in a pilot study to ensure that the drug, tamoxifen, has no untoward side-effects when taken by healthy women. They will be joined by 5,000 other high-risk women over the next year or so, after the project has been approved by the United Kingdom Co-ordinating Committee for Cancer Research.

Because the pilot study, run from London's Royal Marsden Hospital, shows that the anti-cancer drug lowers blood cholesterol, there are plans to extend the trial to a further 25,000 women who have a low risk of breast cancer. It will aim to establish if tamoxifen provides protection against heart disease as well as breast cancer. If, as also seems to be the case, the drug prevents the thinning of the bones that begins soon after menopause, then participants may have the bonus of avoiding osteoporosis.

The potential benefits of this trial are high. The lifetime risks of getting breast cancer are one in 12, of coronary heart disease one in four, and of osteoporosis at least one in four.

There is no solid evidence that tamoxifen will reduce these risks. The trial is based on a scientific hypothesis and strong evidence that tamoxifen leads to a 20 per cent reduction in mortality by



Human guinea-pig: Iris Wright is taking part in the long-term tamoxifen testing

preventing new tumours in women who have already been treated with the drug for breast cancer. Those involved in the trial hope that, taken over a longer period, tamoxifen may reduce the incidence of breast cancer by a third to a half.

Tamoxifen mimics the action of the natural female hormone, oestrogen, in some parts of the body, while blocking it in others. By acting as a weak oestrogen substitute, it is said to reduce blood cholesterol and strengthen bone. However, oestrogen is also known to promote the growth of breast tumours; by blocking oestrogenic activity in the breast tissues, tamoxifen is thought to prevent the growth of cancers.

Tamoxifen was originally intended as a contraceptive

pill, but its developers, ICI, found that while preventing ovulation in rats, it appeared to encourage it in women. Because of this, and because tamoxifen's effects in pregnancy have not been tested, only women who are not at risk of pregnancy are selected for the trial.

Tamoxifen was launched in 1973 as a breast cancer drug, Nolvadex, but is now out of patent and generic versions are made by at least 22 other companies. Researchers have long suspected that the drug may be as useful in the prevention of breast cancer as in its treatment. However, when Dr Jack Cuzick, the head of the mathematics, statistics and epidemiology department of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund (ICRF), first proposed this in

1986, the suggestion caused uproar.

The hostile response has been variously ascribed to irritation that a "numbers man" should dabble in a clinical issue, doubts over the ethics of giving a potent drug to healthy women, and anger that Dr Cuzick had jumped the gun by publicizing an idea that a number of other doctors had on the drawing board.

However, Dr Trevor Powles, of the Royal Marsden, decided to go ahead with a pilot study "quietly and without publicity", recruiting healthy patients, aged 36 to 65, with a strong family history of breast cancer.

The study was temporarily halted in 1987 when experiments with rats suggested an increased risk of liver cancer. There is no evidence that

humans are affected the same way. According to Dr Powles, vast numbers of women have now been treated with tamoxifen worldwide with no signs of primary liver tumours.

Some of his patients have been using tamoxifen for three years, and Dr Powles hopes to have recruited 1,000 women on to the trial by the end of 1992. Half of them, unknown to themselves and their doctors, will be taking dummy tablets.

Iris Wright, a 49-year-old office temp from Crowborough, Sussex, joined the tamoxifen trial last November. Mrs Wright's paternal aunt, maternal grandmother and two maternal aunts have had breast cancer. In the past five years, one of her sisters has died of the disease, while another is under treatment after the discovery of pre-malignant changes in the breast.

"In a sense it was an odd thing for me to do, because I had always refused to take the birth pill, and I seldom even take an aspirin," she says. "I was worried at first about taking an anti-cancer pill, but now I don't think about it, or cancer, much at all. Getting these regular check-ups is a tremendous bonus as far as I am concerned."

Since starting the tamoxifen there have been no side-effects that she can ascribe to the drug.

Early results of Dr Powles's trial have revealed no major side-effects, although hot flushes, a common symptom of women in the age group, were more common. Where these were troublesome, hormone replacement therapy (HRT) was provided. However, some women found the drug reduced their pre-menstrual tension and headaches.

It is likely to be about seven years after the national trial has begun before results are analysed.

Richard Peto, head of the ICRF Cancer Studies Unit at Oxford, stresses that the potential of tamoxifen should be kept in perspective. "We do have to be careful, because there have been so many things in cancer research which looked as if they would be wonderful, and then turned out not to be quite so wonderful after all. My own hope is that it will reduce heart disease even more than breast cancer. Heart disease kills five times as many women."

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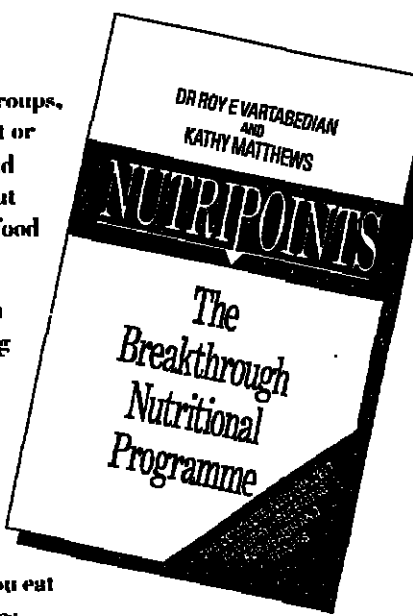
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NEW TACTICS TO BEAT KILLERS

The tamoxifen trial heralds an entirely new philosophy, in which cancer is tackled not by prevention or cure, but by interrupting the cancer process. It is an approach that is likely to be extended to other diseases, particularly mental illness, heart disease and arthritis, says Sir Walter Bodmer, president of the Human Genome Organization, the international body co-ordinating research into drawing up the human gene map.

Breast cancer researchers in Britain are pooling their data on inherited breast cancer to speed up the race to discover the breast cancer gene. Sir Walter believes it is likely to be identified within a few years. The inherited form of the disease represents about 5 per cent of cases, but finding this gene could lead to discoveries about who is susceptible to the more common forms of the disease.

Similarly, with heart disease

he believes that it may soon be possible to identify high-risk individuals whose cholesterol levels are dangerously high, and ensure that they follow special diets.

Aspirin is already known to be effective in preventing a second heart attack. However, taking daily aspirin to prevent heart disease may carry a higher risk of suffering a stroke, and so it is not generally advised. Finding the heart disease gene would identify those men who would benefit from aspirin or other preventive drugs.

Some researchers believe that a deficiency of beta carotene may lead to the development of certain cancers. However, the deficiency is likely to occur because of faults in the way this particular nutrient is broken down in the body. Again, if the susceptible groups could be identified, then special dietary advice or food supplements could be offered.

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FICTION

Over-top game of unhappy families

WE MEET them first in a sepia photograph taken in the early 1930s - Florence doing her crocheting, sitting between her daughter Kitty and her granddaughter Joanna. They are exiled from their privileged paradise, the big house in Jersey with its magical garden full of wisteria and cineraria, all lost through dead grandfather's gambling debts. Now they live in genteel poverty in Hendon, an outer London suburb, tormented by memories of Eden.

But that's not the half of it. They are an unholy trinity, fervent in their Catholicism, feverishly devoted in their peculiar passions, and linked by bloody umbilical cords. Kitty is tiny, exquisite, capricious, frigid, with white skin and lethal emerald green eyes. Her Antarctic eyes can kill puppies, abort babies (other than her own), and foresee deaths at sea or in war. Her father had taught her that beauty and breeding are the only things that matter, and she destroys the decent men who fall in love with her.

Furthermore, Kitty loathes her daughter Joanna, who is outrageously red-haired, big-footed, clumsy, too tall, and totally unwanted. Granny, who loves them both, calls Kitty "headstrong"; in fact she is an insane child-abuser. Joanna, who tells the tale first, is hospitalized with cracked ribs, a fractured skull, a detached retina. She is attacked in the suburban villa with Kitty's fists, a broken gramophone record, a kitchen knife. For her own safety, she spends much of her time in grim convent schools, where she discovers the "ecstatic euphoria" of falling in love (with other girls, and later with anyone who will devote himself to her), and mentally rewrites the Catholic doctrines to explain her own family.

Granny, Our Lady of the Sorrows, covers up for monstrous Kitty, comforts Joanna, does her crocheting, and mourns her lost grandeur. In Jersey, where Granny

Victoria Glendinning reviews a steamy story of three female generations, Catholicism, and mad child abuse

was uncrowned queen of the island, she had "eight smartly dressed, doting members of indoor staff". Now she has unsatisfactory skivvies who leave as soon as they rumble Kitty, and has to shop in places where the assistants do not even know her.

Granny and Kitty also tell their stories and put their point of view. Their monologues go some way

JOANNA
By Lisa St Aubin de Terán
Virago, £12.95

towards explaining why Kitty hates her daughter - revealing the loss of her first love in the Great War, her sexual traumas, and the special significance for this family of green eyes, red hair, body size, plus a whole intricate web of genetic traits and strange recurrences. But Kitty remains obscure. Is she, as her mother believes, just a beautiful flower transplanted into inhospitable soil? Or a psychological casualty of war and social change? Or is she the devil?

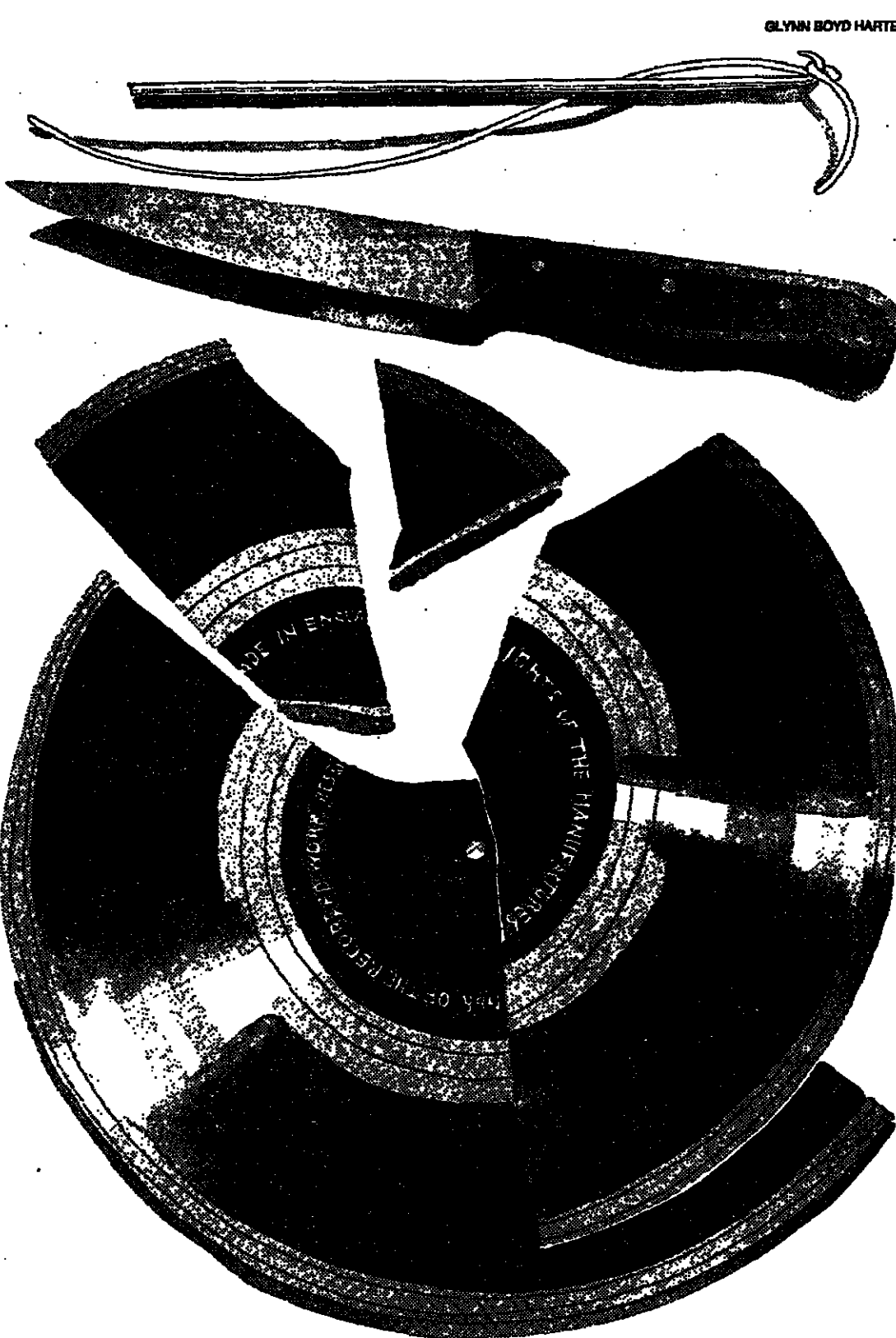
The novel is a rich mixture of horror, luxurious descriptions of gardens, bodies and clothes, sociological detail, and the supernatural. Kitty ends up raving in an asylum, and Joanna, after an emotional trajectory different but hardly less lurid than her mother's - "Sex became my family, my country" - contracts cancer, from which Granny also dies. No happy

endings here, although it is suggested, not convincingly, that Joanna loves her own children.

It's hard to know how significant it is that Kitty, the mad child-abuser, attributes her problems to boredom. "Boredom is a disease. It is one of the most dangerous conditions in the world. Those who have never suffered from it cannot understand its gravity." The novel is not boring. It is written with unflagging verve and fluency. But it doesn't add up.

There is a price to pay for all the hysteria and wisteria. The over-egging of the writing things rather than thickens the plot. There is a carefree sloppiness. The author seems to think that camellias bloom in this country in June, that Napoleon III was Bonaparte's son, and that Dickens's novels were appearing in instalments in 1889. I do not believe that aristocratic Granny, born in 1869, would use the word "skivvies", and one sentence about Granny shielding her daughter from the consequences of her violence, surely means the opposite of what was intended: "I know one cannot buy sanity, but one can buy the privacy that keeps its presence hidden from the law."

The proliferating pile-ups of imagery are not always well found: "Shame shaves away one's friends like unwanted hair" suggests that the friends were considered superfluous, which wasn't so. Joanna describes her best friend at school as having "carmine lips" which "curved into a natural kiss and left a dimple with gossamer down that could catch shadows and play with them like a pale kaleidoscope". She describes her own hair as "red with the redness of cherry brandy and the added, darker but still natural sheen of conkers burst from their spiked cases," which sounds like advertising copy for a henna rinse. The whole thing goes over the top. In war, and in writing, that's a gallant if hairily dangerous way to go.



Dr Jekyll, I presume

HISTORICALS

Philippa Toomey

MARY REILLY
By Valerie Martin
Doubleday, £12.95

NO ONE notices the scars on the hands and neck on the under-housemaid. Why should they? In a household of six servants she ranks very low, happy to work in a congenial household. Her employer is a rich bachelor doctor. He notices the scars, and asks her to write what he knows she cannot bring herself to speak about. She has been cruelly abused as a child by her drunken father. Her kind master asks whether her father was two men, one sober and another drunk. Looking back, she agrees with him. Here we discover that the kindly doctor is Dr Jekyll, the well-known physician.

There is a fascination in well-known stories retold by a minor character - for example, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern's view of Hamlet* by Tom Stoppard, and Dr Rochester's mad wife portrayed by Jean Rhys in *Wide Sargasso Sea*. Mary Reilly, the under-housemaid, instinctively hates and fears Edward Hyde, the new assistant to Dr Jekyll. This is an ingenious story, hung on the peg of a weeping housemaid mentioned in Robert Louis Stevenson's classic novel. It gives a vivid impression of the well-to-do London of Dr Jekyll, and the stinking slums of Shoreditch.

Meridon, by Philippa Gregory (*Virago*, £13.99). This is the third in a series following *Wideacre* and *The Favourite Child*, in which Sarah Lacey, given to the gypsies as a child by her frantic mother, is now called Meridon, and meets Dandy, the girl she calls sister, to rise in a circus, and learn to fly the high wire. Even in the 18th century there are fatal consequences when sex raises its ugly head, and Meridon flees, finding by chance the estate to which she is heir. The book is melodramatic without humour.

Theo and Matilda, by Rachel Billington (*Macmillan*, £13.95). Theo and Matilda pursue each other down the arches of the years, sometimes as a monk and great lady (around 770), and again in 1540. In 1880 they are married with a large family, and a large income dissipated by Theo's extravagance. In 1980 they are in a psychiatric ward. A black humour enlivens this novel of reincarnation.

Leading Lady, by Jane Aitken Hodge (*Hodder & Stoughton*, £11.95). Sequel to *First Night* Lissaberg, a small mountain principality, lacks its prince, and the democratic American Princess Martha finds her subjects rebellious and threatening. Love, war and opera are the themes. It ends happily to extracts from Beethoven's new opera, *Regulus*.

Anna, by Cynthia Harrod-Eagles (*Sidgwick & Jackson*, £13.95). Sacked by an odious English family, governess Anna Peters finds herself in danger in Paris of 1803, but is rescued and whisked off to Russia by Count Nicolai Kirov. The first in what promises to be a lively series.

Papists, prods, tartan terrors

John Nicholson

THE MAGIC FLUTE
By Alan Spence
Canongate, £12.95
ABLE BAKER CHARLIE DOG
By Stephanie Vaughan
Heinemann, £13.95
LEE'S GHOST
By Petronella Pulsford
Constable, £11.95



By Petronella Pulsford
Constable, £11.95

by a crude terrorist bobby trap in Belfast, a squaddie undone by a couple of colleens and two punts too many.

George's brother Malcolm becomes a leading student activist,

and later attracts Special Branch attention, thanks to his Irish connections. The flip-side of sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll was paranoia, and Alan Spence writes like a man who was there. Supporting characters in *The Magic Flute* - Tam's psychotic American wife Ruby, Paki the Dealer, and Bird the Sex Man - narrowly avoid being stereotypes, and the book's structure is only just robust enough to prevent any of the strands breaking away. But the whole reflects the times to perfection. This is a formidable first novel from one of Scotland's most accomplished literary talents.

Stephanie Vaughan is another writer of extraordinary talent. Able Baker Charlie Dog is a collection of short stories, linked by a narrator, Gemma Jackson, a young American woman whose background has left her rootless and footloose. Gemma's father was a professional soldier, a logistics officer in strategic outposts for America's Early Warning System. His work was secret, never discussed. But he was a reading man, who spoke to his daughter about the rotation of crops or the Defenestration of Prague, where other fathers might talk about the Yankees. As his oldest child, she learnt how to gut a dove the European way, plant tomatoes, load a shotgun, as well as how to play Parcheesi, checkers, and cribbage.

Like most American short story writers of her generation, Miss Vaughan shows the influence of Raymond Carver. Her stories are simple - fragments of childhood recollection mixed with raw slices of suburban life - but their tone downbeat, slightly off-centre. Car crashes (trivial), cancer (serious though not necessarily fatal), a family dog that refuses to be given away, a man torn between two wives, a harassed mother who finds solace rolling in the snow. Not phoney tales of arms and the man, but vivid dispatches from the front where the real fighting takes place.

Reality is more elusive for the tormented heroine of *Lee's Ghost*. She lives with her cat Hosanna in a house by the sea, haunted by memories of her sailor lover. The memories she could live with, but Lee develops a conviction that Gabriel has returned. She keeps seeing him around the house, fixing curtains, sitting at her typewriter, stark naked. She can see him, but her friends don't. They are a bohemian crowd, addicted to affection and astrology, sexually ambivalent, but tolerant of Lee's little idiosyncrasies.

The plot thickens, and Lee sickens, but all's well in the end. Petronella Pulsford is an actress turned writer. Her style is distinctly theatrical, a hybrid of Gothic and rococo, but the book she has created is both effective and original. I look forward to seeing what she can accomplish with a story less obviously derived from personal tragedy.

Get thee to a nunnery

FIRST NOVEL

Philip Howard

THE FADING SHRINE
By May McCrory
Cape, £12.95

THIS FIRST novel, by a writer of sharp short stories around sisterhood, is in the fashionable modern mode, popularized by Peter Ackroyd, of past pastiche interacting eerily with the present. In this case the main characters are nuns of the calamitous 10th century in the north of England, and a contemporary teaching nun at a convent school in somewhere that feels like Liverpool. The connection between them is a secret painting hidden beneath centuries of varnish on the altarpiece of the modern convent. When the panel is cleaned, behind the picture of order, pointing at his breast where the spear went in, there gradually emerges what looks like a picture of a monk, a nun, a child, and a small tower. What can they mean?

Not a lot for our comfort, is the answer, as we plunge backwards into the horrors of life, particularly for women, more than 10 centuries ago: perpetual cold, hunger,

male chauvinism even from monks, pregnancy, flagellation with the "discipliner", no arts; few letters outside monasteries; and, which is worst of all, continual fear and danger of death, if you are unlucky, by immurement. This is outside my field, but I was thoroughly persuaded by the technology of Dark Age painting and of heraldic symbolism. It is not a book for the squeamish. The Mother Superior heroine sacrifices her virginity brutally to punish her spiritual pride in her unblemished body; the schoolgirl pupil of the modern nun (who was thwarted of her vocation as a

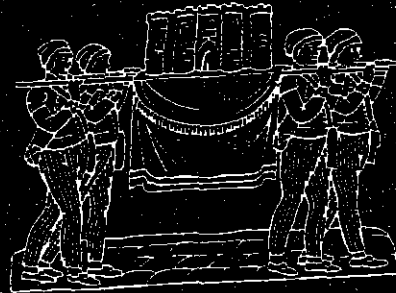
historian) is battered by her good Papist father.

Just occasionally, when Sister Scolastica gets up to her potions, it feels a bit like *Carry on Up the Convent*, without the terrible jokes. It is ambitious in its techniques, for example trying to reproduce in language the delirium of sickness or of religious ecstasy. The book has been selected for the top twenty for the feminist book fortnight. Quite right too. Apart from that, it has interesting things to say about the wars of the sexes, the difficulties of love, the importance of teaching, and the hard lives and times of women. One moral seems to be: try to avoid being born female; but if you fall in this, whatever you do, don't opt out of life by taking the veil. This is all wrapped around a mystery from the deep past, which the reader is partly left to solve for herself or himself. A feminist *The Name of the Rose* this ain't quite; but an exciting first effort.

THE PAPERBACK OF THE CENTURY

CITIZENS

A CHRONICLE OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION



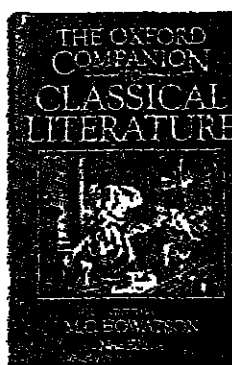
SIMON SCHAMA

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LITERATURE

How Greene was my staging?

The stage version of Graham Greene's novel *The Power and the Glory* is being revived at Chichester. Denis Cannan, who made the adaptation, recalls his long correspondence with the author

The date was December, 1953. "Do write to me at the Majestic Hotel, Saigon, and say in general how you feel about the suggestions," wrote Graham Greene. He must then have been preparing *The Quiet American*, but he found time to comment in minute detail on the umpteenth draft of the stage version of his novel *The Power and the Glory*, on which we had already worked for over two years. Our meetings were sporadic, because he was always off to somewhere mysterious or just back from somewhere in the news (I look forward to learning from the second volume of Norman Sherry's biography what he was up to in those absences).

Greene had none of the condescension that some novelists show towards the theatre. He had already written the screenplays of *Brighton Rock*, *The Fallen Idol* and *The Third Man*, and his own first play *The Living Room* had been produced. His letters to me reveal that he had an old pro's sense of what would and would not work with an audience.

"The priest has drunk wine and I wonder whether Maria should give him an onion or something to remove the smell of the wine and whether the Lieutenant should smell the mouths of the peasants, but that's probably impossible to do on the stage without laughter. I won't press that point... If the consecration has taken place the priest would have to eat all the bread quickly himself, which would hardly be other than grotesque on the stage."

But he was firm when he felt subtleties had been lost:

"You may have been puzzled by some of my small changes in the dialogue in the scenes I gave back

to you. In several cases I went back to the dialogue of the book because I felt that in order to make the meaning clear to the audience you had sometimes lost the dramatic mystical flash. A religious idea is often a paradoxical one and I don't feel that one wants to smooth out the paradox too much. I remember an awful Jesuit once giving a long sermon in Farm Street to explain away the statement about there being more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner being penitent than over 99 just men. By the time the priest had finished he had reduced the paradox to a very reasonable statement by the headmaster of a public school. I don't, of course, mean that in any place you went as far as this!"

Reading his letters now I marvel at his patience. I feel I ought to have done more homework to make up for the defects of the confirmation classes that had been my only religious instruction. To quote a few of his 24 notes on an early draft:

"The priest's sentence beginning 'To think there are people' This seems to me awfully parsonical and Anglican..."

"Same scene, page 20. No Catholic priest would (a) quote the Bible in the Protestant version, (b) quote it at all, probably, in English, and I doubt he would have quoted this passage in any case..."

"Same scene. I think you are a little muddled from the theological point of view about the married priests. They don't cease to be priests because they marry. They simply cease to have the faculties for acting as priests... I don't like the priest's claim, even in its qualified form, to love his enemies."

"Page 21, last speech: I notice that I have marked this with a cross, but at the moment I can't remember what my objection is! You might look at it."

The four pages end, as always, with perfect courtesy. "I hope you won't mind my picking all these small holes, and I very much look forward to seeing you and talking again." The time came when I was asked only to "Look charitably through mainly tiny cuts that I propose in the script." In 1956 we went into production, with Peter Brook directing.

In those days every play had to be sent to The Lord Chamberlain for censoring. He had his office in St James's Palace, and if one wanted to contest his decisions one had to pass between armed sentries to be patronized by exquisite guards who paid for their incomparable tailoring by skimming plays for improprieties. Back came the verdict: we were not allowed to show the celebration of the Mass, on the stage on the grounds that this would be offensive to Roman Catholics.

Greene went straight to the Jesuits. A compromise was reached: we could show the Mass on stage if it was supervised at rehearsals by someone approved by the Cardinal. Father Caraman of Farm Street was chosen. As he had prepared Edith Sitwell for reception into the Catholic church he was quite used to a theatrical atmosphere. He rehearsed Paul Scofield to the last crook of a finger.

We opened in Brighton. After the first performance, a shaggy person rather the worse for liquor barged through the stage door shouting "Wrong! They've got it wrong!" Indeed we had. A small fault in detail had escaped even



Graham Greene: his notes to Denis Cannan revealed that he had "an old pro's sense of what would work with an audience"

Father Caraman. It was spotted from the audience by Gilbert Harding. When I tell this story now, no one knows who Gilbert Harding was.

The Power and the Glory was published 50 years ago. It looks as

though that whisky priest will outlast the lot of us.

Denis Cannan's adaptation of *The Power and the Glory* is now playing at the Chichester Festival Theatre (0243 784437).

CRITICS' CHOICE: LITERATURE

THREE NEW VOICES: Alan Dunnett recently directed *Gas Light* at the Nottinghamshire Theatre Royal and has published his first collection *In the Savage Gap*. New Zealander John Gallas works with the Leicester Disaffected People Programme and Liz Smith is a member of the editorial board of *Other Poetry*. All three reading from their own work. Beeston Library, Foster Avenue, Beeston, Nottinghamshire (0602 255168), tonight, 7.30pm, £2.50 (£1.50).

HAY-ON-WYE LITERATURE FESTIVAL: Leslie Norris, David Gascoyne and Nina Cassian: A reading and seminar by two of Britain's more senior poets, and the brilliant dissident Romanian, Cassian (Sun, Parish Hall, midday). Nigel Jenkins, Glyn Maxwell and Jeremy Jenkins: Read is a talented and up-and-coming star of the British poetry establishment who presents himself very much as an archetypal 19th-century romantic literary figure, which can become overbearing. Difficult to like and hard to ignore. In interesting company (Sun, Parish Hall, 6pm). John Pilger, Christopher Hope and Li Lu: Li Lu, a Tiananmen Square student leader and on China's 21 "most wanted" list, launches his book *Moving the Mountain* and discusses a world on the edge with Moscow, Moscow author, Hope, and the uncompromising journalist, John Pilger (Mon, Festival Theatre, 3.30pm). Justo Jorge Padron, Menna Elfyn, Gabriel Rosenstock and Anthony Howell: Padron won the European Prize for Literature in 1988. Howell is a fine poet and writer/director for the "Ting Theatre of Mistakes". They are joined by Welsh-speaking Elfyn and the Irish Gaelic writer Rosenstock in this session of border country poetry (Mon, Parish Hall, 6pm). Festival continues until June 4. Further information and ticket prices: Festival Box Office, Hay-on-Wye (0497 821289).

ROBERT COOVER AND ALASDAIR GRAV: Coover, prominent in what is being promoted as a new wave of Scottish writers, has his novel *Something Leather* just published. He joins Coover from the USA, one of the most brilliant and highly influential prose stylists of the last 20 years, giving a rare reading. Battersea Arts Centre, Old Town Hall, Lavender Hill, London SW11 (071-223 2223), Fri, 8.15pm, £3 (£2).

POETRY LIVE 90: Benjamin Zephaniah, SuAndi and Pauline Omboboye: Dub poet and author of *Pan Rhythm and Dread*, Zephaniah has a strong following for his energetic and frequent performances. Completing a strongly diverse programme is Omboboye, a member of

Blackscribe, and SuAndi who has worked with Extempore Dance Company and Temba Theatre. Harlequin Theatre, Queen Street, Northwich (0606 41587), tonight, 7.45pm, £3 (£2).

ROY HUTCHINS: "Whale Nation" by Heathcote Williams. The monster smash eco poem of our times, brought powerfully to the stage. Victoria Community Centre, West Street, Crewe (0270 211422), Fri, 7.30pm, £2 (£1.50).

NINA CASSIAN, CAROL ANN DUFFY and LIZ LOCHHEAD: Three poets who between them make up this year's collection, with Cassian taking pride of place. Go and hear. Bolton Institute, College Club, Chadwick Street, Bolton (0204 28851), Fri, 7.30pm, £1.75 (£1.25).

VOLCANO THEATRE PRESENT: "Heart versus mind, body versus soul, east versus west, faithful versus faithless - 19th-century poetic form versus late 20th-century social issues. A fine staging of Tony Harrison's poem. Green Room, Whitworth Street West, Manchester (061 236 1677), Fri, Sat, 8pm, £4.30 (£2.80).

APPLES AND SNAKES: A pan-African gathering of poets whose work is often at its strongest in performance: Elean Thomas (from Jamaica), Freddy Macha (from Tanzania), Thusi Mofutsa (from Zimbabwe), Pitika Ntuli (from Azania) with the Highlife trio Juwon.

Convent Garden Community Centre, 45 Earlham Street, London WC2 (071-690 9388), Fri, 8pm, £3.50 (£2.50).

STAN TREVOR: Hard-hitting author of *Guerrilla* launches a new edition of his collection *Hard Bones* and performs these texts with the help of Isabella McEwen and Bob Cobbing. Toriano Meeting House, 99 Toriano Avenue, London NW5 (071-267 2751), Sun, 7.30pm, free.

JENI COUZYN: Editor of the *Book of Contemporary Women Poets* (Bloodaxe) and her own collection *Life by Drowning*, *The Happiness Bird*, *The Blue Noise Café*, 78 Mountgrove Road, London N5 (071-354 3655), Tues, 7.45pm, £3 (£2).

TATYANA TOLSTAYA and IRINA RATUSHINSKAYA: In this continuation of the excellent East European Forum series, two prominent younger writers read from their work and discuss their different experience and perception of life in the Soviet Union. With Michael Ignatieff. ICA, The Mall, London SW1 (071-930 3647), Tues, 7.30pm, £3 plus £1 membership.

CRIS CHEEK

THEATRE

On such a knight

Susan Ellicott reports a US theatrical first: a woman playing Sir John Falstaff

Pat Carroll has no pretensions about her looks, as she explains her suitability to play Sir John Falstaff, Shakespeare's blustering knight. "I look like a baby's bottom," she says. "It's true," agrees Michael Kahn, her director. "You look like an advert for baby food." The two break into giggles.

Cross-dressing has been a popular theatrical device from Shakespeare's time, when boys played young women, to the portrayal of Hamlet in the last century by Sarah Bernhardt and in recent years by Frances de la Tour. But Falstaff? The fat knight described as a "gross, watery pumpkin", Prince Hal's sidekick in parts one and two of *Henry IV*, the preposterous rogue?

Carroll, aged 63, is probably one of the few women able to carry off the role. She is also, so far as records show, the first. As the actress points out, she is one of the few to want it. She praises Kahn, of the Folger Theatre in Washington DC, as one of the few artistic directors likely to agree. It took a beard test to convince even him she could carry it off in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Initially, he offered her Mistress Quickly, the bawdy wench who ensures Falstaff is cuckolded in his efforts to seduce the wives of two noblemen.

"This is the true essence of theatre," Carroll says of her role. "Theatre makes us look at things in a different way. It is also about dressing up and pretending to be someone you are not."

If the idea of a woman playing Falstaff is difficult to accept, the fact of Carroll playing him is not. A plump 5ft 3in with bad legs - "I walk like an old coot" - she sinks into a chair with her full weight, just as heavily as her Sir John falls on to a stage tavern bench.

A sigh of air rushes out from beneath her. Using words uncommonly spoken by Americans, such as "corking" and "awfully", she is naturally heavy, with a

husky contralto voice deepened by years of cigarette smoke. The only child of parents who worked in the theatre in Los Angeles, she fell in love with Shakespeare in the early 1960s, during a visit to Stratford-upon-Avon. She came to the Bard late in life when asked by Kahn in 1986 to play the nurse in *Romeo and Juliet*.

The role of Falstaff seemed a logical step for an actress known for her appearances on game shows, in television comedy roles and as the voice of a squid in *The Little Mermaid*, the Walt Disney studio's recent cartoon film.

Sipping ginger ale from a paper cup as she throws a pink sweater to the floor from her shoulders, Carroll laughs her throaty cackle as she recounts the pitfalls of adopting the male mannerisms she had to learn to play the vain but cowardly knight.

She says: "My kids told me I looked like the bearded lady in the circus." She unnerved men in restaurants by staring at them to learn how they played with their facial hair and moved their bodies. Carroll shed 30lbs on a liquid diet to be able to bear her 15-lb costume up and down the set's stairs and took exercises to control her breathing and diction. However, the hardest part was making the seduction scenes convincing: "It's hard being this randy person with another woman," she says.

But it works, helped by the farcical style of the production, from the moment Carroll swaggers onto the stage wielding a beer mug, even when Falstaff tries unsuccessfully to mount Mistress Ford on a laundry basket.

Some people have asked whether she undertook the role to prove something. "I'm doing this for theatrical reasons, not feminist reasons," she scoffs.

It is not as if she has any ambitions to try another role. She has played out her fantasy. "This may be it," she says and chuckles. "I certainly don't want to do Hamlet. I foresee no other man in my future."



Patricia Carroll as Sir John Falstaff with Marilyn Sokol as Mistress Quickly

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ARTS

TELEVISION

Appalling?
Not really

EXTENSIVELY previewed in yesterday's news columns by Alan Hamilton, the latest in Prince Charles's occasional series of "it really is appalling" tele-documentaries was a curious mix of sermon, uneventful travelogue and apocalyptic warning. Invited to contribute to BBC 1's "One World" week of planet-saving (which presumably means that if the ozone layer is not cleared out by Saturday we shall all have Easter Rantzen to reckon with), HRH faced production problems.

As heir to the throne, he is probably allowed to interview anyone he chooses. Might it not therefore have made sense to interrogate the Duke of Edinburgh on his hunting, shooting and fishing policies as applied to Scottish ecology.

Apparently not: *The Earth in Balance* was to be an infinitely balanced and tactful show, starting with a balanced shot of the globe, overlaid with the reassuring Royal announcement "This is where we live".

From there, it was off to Hong Kong where, over what looked like offcuts from the last *Whicker's World*, HRH announced that big was not necessarily beautiful and that progress may not be the same as growth. But this is not an especially revelatory or Thatcherite view. Although the Prince can be understandably smug about the way the world has finally caught up with his ecological awareness, he is still bound by the Constitution to stay out of the politics of an infinitely political situation.

So the splendid anger of his earlier architecture show was replaced here by a kind of Christmas-message blandness, as though his every speech to camera had been softened and qualified by hordes of Palace, Home and Foreign Office advisers. HRH is getting better at the job. What he is doing, for an audience of millions, is precisely what his great-uncle, the last Prince of Wales, did for a few dozen onlookers when he visited the mining villages of Wales in 1935 and announced that something must be done. The problem here is that Charles himself can't be seen to do it.

The programme the Prince should have been doing last night was the one over on Channel 4 about the architecture of fear in Iraq, where the dictator Saddam Hussein has built himself a victory monument featuring his own arms, 20 metres wide and 40 metres high. Fearing for his life, the critic on the programme did not dare to appear. Charles might, at least, have managed to get the whole appalling thing redesigned.

SHERIDAN MORLEY

CINEMA

David Robinson reviews this week's new films: *Dreams*, from the veteran master, Akira Kurosawa, plus Nicolas Roeg's *Witches*, *Loverboy* and *King of the Wind*

At 80, Akira Kurosawa's mastery of his craft is still unsurpassed. The director of *Rashomon*, *The Seven Samurai* and *Ran* uses complex technology, spectacle, armies of extras, elaborate special effects as effortlessly and subtly as if he were handling a fine paint brush. In everything he does, there is the grand simplicity of wisdom.

His autobiography, called *Something Like An Autobiography*, is written as plainly as a tale for children; but teaches more about living, dying and artistic creation than any more pretentious work.

Always a devotee of Western literature, Kurosawa has adapted authors as varied as Shakespeare, Dostoevsky, Gorky and Ed McBain. It is not clear if he has ever read Dickens, but *Dreams* (PG, Lumiere, Gate Notting Hill, Screen-on-the-Hill) has very much the character of *A Christmas Carol* — only in eight staves instead of five.

Like Scrooge, the "I" who dreams these dreams is shown visions of Past, Present and Future, and of ways in which life can be better lived.

The first two dreams are light and pretty, with the quality of ballet spectacle. For the first, Kurosawa's own childhood home is recreated; and a little boy witnesses the wedding of the Foxes which, according to legend, happens when rain and sunshine come together. The second dream is also a child's dolls come to life to reproach the boy's family for cutting down a peach orchard.

The next two dreams, variations on the theme of death, take the film into a dark second movement (Kurosawa has written: "A good structure for a screenplay is that of a symphony, with its three or four movements and differing tempi").

"The Blizzard" is a nightmare of men lost in a snowstorm and visited by an angel of death. In "The Tunnel" — the film's most haunting episode — a soldier encounters the ghosts of his fallen comrades from the Second World War, who plead for reassurance that they are still alive.

Returning to a lighter mood, "The Crows" illustrates a passage in Kurosawa's autobiography: "After looking at a monograph on Cézanne, I would step outside and the houses, streets and trees — everything — looked like a Cézanne painting. The same thing would happen when I looked at a book of Van Gogh's paintings or Utrillo's paintings..." The dreaming "I", gazing at Van Gogh's paintings in an exhibition, finds himself entering the pictures, and meeting the artist himself. The magic is only slightly impaired by the unexpected appearance of Martin Scorsese, with his New York aspect and accent, as Van Gogh.

The next two-dream movement is Kurosawa's *Apocalypse*. "Mount Fuji in Red" is a vision of Tokyo devastated by nuclear catastrophe. "The Weeping Ogre" could be Marley's Ghost, doing posthumous penance for the speed of his life in a valley peopled by a hundred spectral ogres, who in life were government officials or millionaires. Just as in Dickens, "The air was filled with phantoms, wandering hither and thither in restless haste, and moaning as they went... some few (they might be guilty governments) were linked together."

These two episodes are the least convincing. Kurosawa seems to stray from the authentic surrealism of dream into self-conscious didacticism. The coda, "Village of the Watermills", is Kurosawa's "Ghost of Christmas Past" — romantic, sentimental, nostalgic, bewitching. "I" dreams himself into an idyllic village, where he meets a happy centenarian (85-year-old Chishu Ryo, who has played some of the most memorable roles in Japanese classic cinema). The old man shows him what the race has sacrificed in losing its links with nature.

The sequence ends the film with a funeral procession, made up of many familiar faces from past Kurosawa films, and giving the departed a positively merry send-off to the next world. The choice of musical accompaniment, Ippolito-Ivanov's "In the Village", from *Caucasian Sketches*, is as correct as it is unexpected. *Dreams* is an experience rather than a film. Kurosawa's freshness and assurance remain astonishing — the handling of vast crowds and massive spectacles, the contrasting moments of intimacy, the boldness and virtuosity of shooting a 17-minute sequence ("The Tunnel") or a 9-minute sequence (Chishu Ryo's *tour de force*) in a single shot.

After over half a century in films, Kurosawa is one of the most youthful of directors. Following long years of restricted activity, his career has taken a new turn, thanks to the practical veneration of one of the most powerful Hollywood directors: *Dreams* is a Steven Spielberg presentation. Nor is this film a testament Kurosawa is already at work on his next production.

Nicolas Roeg's latest production, *Witches*, is an odd undertaking — a children's film that never seems sure what audience it is targeting. The Roald Dahl story tells how a worldwide coven of witches, bent on ridding the world of children, is defeated by a brave little lad (who gets turned into a mouse) and his wily grandmother.

There is little invention in the film-making to lift it out of the ordinary; but *Witches* is enjoyable for the extravagance of Anjelica Huston as the wickedest witch in the world, and the eccentric charm of Mai Zetterling as the cigar-puffing granny. It is a nice joke, too, to have the witches masquerade as a convention of the NSPPC at a Family-style seaside hotel, ruled by a purred-lipped Rowan Atkinson.

You might not readily guess that the director of *Loverboy* (15, Campions Oxford Street, Pantan Silver, Chelsea) was Joan Micklin Silver, who made *Hester Street*



The wickedest: Anjelica Huston as the Grand High Witch, Miss Ernst, who tries to turn children into mice, in *Witches*

and *Crossing Delancey*. This unappetising sex comedy has Patrick Dempsey as a college kid who takes a spare-time job delivering pizzas, with an on-the-side garnish of gigolo services for frustrated middle-class wives. Broad and bawdy comedy is clearly not Ms Silver's forte; and any hope that she might throw in some pertinent observation on middle-class California is quickly dashed.

The legendary 18th-century stud stallion, the Godolphin Arabian, spawned a mass of picturesque legend, as well as a progeny from which most of the world's thoroughbreds are descended. The legend, and much more, are entangled in *King of the*

Wind (U, Cannon Haymarket), from a book by Marguerite Henry. Navin Chowdhry, from *Madame Sousatzka*, plays a young mute Arab groom who accompanies the horse on his travels from Tunis to Paris and London.

The lad's abrupt alterations of fortune in the course of this odyssey would make an 18th-century picaresque novel seem a model of concision by comparison, and *National Velvet* as prosaic as *This Sporting Life*.

Quite prettily shot on locations in the West Country, the film was directed by Peter Duffell. A swiftly-passing procession of guest stars includes Richard Harris and Glenda Jackson

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FILM

And now, Euro-vision

After centuries of gazing at Continental neighbours down the stem of an arrow or the barrel of a gun, the British are shooting their way across the mainland with the friendlier hardware of a 35mm camera. We are being asked to join European film and television companies to produce films for a European market: for the first time, that market is showing signs of being a 450-million-strong entity.

Since it is they who most fear the emergence of a single European market, it is perhaps ironic that the Americans played a key role in this. While British filmmakers looked longingly across the Atlantic, hoping for two US distributors to take their films, Americans were staring fixedly over our shoulder at the machinations in Brussels.

Over the last decade, several American blockbusters, such as *Indiana Jones* and *The Last Crusade*, have earned more abroad than in their home market. Holly-

Oscar Moore on how film-makers and television producers are responding to the challenge of the single European market from 1992

wood studios used to regard foreign distribution as, at best, icing on the cake. Now, producers look to Europe, Japan and Australia as key markets.

But the EC is something of a prickly pear — there are delicious rewards if you can get inside. While the US has been quickly forming joint-venture distribution concerns in Yugoslavia, Hungary and Czechoslovakia, it is frowning on the emergence of EC quotas on US television imports.

The battle over quotas was caused by the EC's Directive on Television and Broadcasting. Due to take effect in October 1991, the directive led the US Trade Representative Carla Hills to lodge an official protest with the international trade body GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade).

However, the directive simply declared that member states must

ensure, where practicable, that broadcasters reserve most of their transmission time for European works (news, sports events, game shows and advertising excepted). Moreover, the requirement is not legally binding. Given that American shows currently account for only 28 per cent of European viewing, and are now given leave to increase that share to 49 per cent, the American reaction seems hotheaded. But it is an indication of the importance that the US attaches to European access that we are now witnessing the return of large US companies to London.

While British companies have been pursuing and, in some cases, acquiring a presence in the US (TVS/MTM; Thames/Reeves) the reverse has also been happening in Britain. Paramount has acquired 49 per cent of Zenith, one of the most prolific British film and television independents, as well as sending over film talent to head a European talent agency and prepare for the main studio. The first fruits of Maisei's London posting have already been announced: an outline agreement to co-produce a long-term slate of feature films with the BBC. It is perhaps typical that this European exploration has resulted in English-language features.

But is Britain anything more than a Trojan horse for smuggling American interests into the European club? The British have been slow to take Europe as seriously as the Americans clearly have. Channel 4 has welded successful partnerships with like-minded European broadcasters such as Germany's ZDF and France's La Sept, co-producing low budget, even foreign language feature films, and some documentary arts programmes. The London-based independent, Red Rooster, with Quentin Raspail's Paris-based production company, formed London-Paris Express some three years ago. But these are exceptions. The British television franchise-holders have been concentrating more on creating joint ventures such as Tango, the recently announced link between Yorkshire Television and America's NBC network, and shudder at the prospect of big European players, such as Berlusconi's Fininvest and the German giant Bertelsmann, bidding for chunks of ITV franchises in 1992. In fact, this could well happen sooner.

The sensible way for an EC company to gain access to a British television franchise is to take a stake in an incumbent, and with 34 per cent of Thames shares put on the sales block by BET and Thorn EMI, London could have a Eurocaster programming weekday television.

A weekly selection of films recently released on video. The year refers to the date of first release, or in the case of television films, of first broadcast.

BLUE JEAN COP (Video Collection, 18): Lively, stunt-filled thriller, with Peter Weller and Sam Elliott as a New York lawyer and cop following a trail of police corruption. Brightly directed by James Glickenhaus.

CAPTAIN PUGWASH — SEAFARING TALES (BBC, U): Delightful collection of nine miniature episodes from the long-running BBC series, featuring John Ryan's bumbling buccannear and the crew of the Black Pig. The material dates from the mid-1970s.

JEREMIAH JOHNSON (Warner, PG): Robert Redford as a 19th-century mountain man. A meandering script, but director Sydney Pollack conveys a wonderful sense of raw nature and its mysteries. 1972.

FESTIVAL: FLORENCE

Donizetti at home

THE most glamorous nights of this summer's Maggio Musicale are probably yet to come. Pavarotti is scheduled to sing five *Manricos* in the new production of *Il trovatore*, with Zubin Mehta conducting. Jonathan Miller is in mid-rehearsal for a *Don Giovanni* promising to be quite different from the gloomy grey affair he contrived for the Coliseum — "Goyasque" is the adjective being bandied about. Samuel Ramey, as at Salzburg, sings the title role and Lucia Ricciarelli is Donna Anna.

Two parties have opened the season, Rimsky-Korsakov's *Capriccio* with a mainly Russian cast, and Donizetti's *Parisina d'Este*. *Parisina*, which runs until Sunday, is back where it started life 157 years ago: at the Teatro della Pergola. Donizetti composed it close to the peak of his powers, and claimed it as a personal favourite. The records show few revivals recently.

The Florentines found *Parisina* a touch gruesome when they first saw it in 1833. Azzo, Duke of Ferrara, having driven his first wife to an early grave through jealousy, has equal doubts about his second, Parisina. He has reason. There is an admirer in the shape of Ugo, recently returned from the wars. When Parisina starts muttering that name in her sleep — shades of *Otello* — Azzo decides it is time for action. Forgiveness is not the order of the day and Ugo, who turns out to be his son, is duly served up dead in Act III. This allows the soprano a long scene of lament and anger (which Donizetti was so expert at writing), before expiring herself. From Byron's poem, Felice Romani, most expert of librettists, fashioned Italian verses that were much more polished than the subject matter.

Florence's director, Giulio Chazettes, sets the opera in period, the 14th century. The chorus is in tiers on either side of the stage, and there they stay.

CRITIC'S CHOICE: VIDEO

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM (Warner, PG): Rowdy version of the musical, markedly staged by Richard Lester. Some *Sondheim* songs get lost in the transfer, and the cast (Zero Mostel, Phil Silvers, Buster Keaton, Michael Crawford) push too hard, but funny things do happen. 1966.

HEAVEN'S GATE (Warner, 18): Michael Cimino's sumptuous epic about the American melting-pot. (Kris Kristofferson, Isabelle Huppert). 1980.

LAST EXIT TO BROOKLYN (Guild, 18): Swift video release for Uli Edel's raw, skilfully structured version of Hubert Selby Jr's novel about Brooklyn's loveless, mired in a hell on earth. Solidly acted, with tender moments among the horror. 1990.

SISTERS (MGM/UA, 15): Engagingly offbeat teenage comedy with fairy-tale trimmings, featuring Patrick Dempsey as a despatch American student 1989.

MARLENE (Castle Handring, 15):

Maximilian Schell's infuriating documentary about Marlene Dietrich — a jumble of the usual clips, plus crochety comments (voice only) from the lady herself. 1983.

MYSTIC PIZZA (Virgin, 15): Why coming-of-age saga about three teenage girls tasting romance. Vibrant performances from Annabeth Gish, Lili Taylor, and fast-rising star Julia Roberts. 1989.

TEX AVERY'S SCREWBALL CLASSICS I (MGM/UA, U): Eight gold-plated classics from the master of zany animation, made at MGM in the Forties and early Fifties: including *The Cat That Hated People*, *Bad Luck Blackie*.

TEX AVERY'S SCREWBALL CLASSICS II (MGM/UA, U): Eight gold-plated classics from the master of zany animation, made at MGM in the Forties and early Fifties: including *The Cat That Hated People*, *Bad Luck Blackie*.

TEX AVERY'S SCREWBALL CLASSICS III (MGM/UA, U): Eight gold-plated classics from the master of zany animation, made at MGM in the Forties and early Fifties: including *The Cat That Hated People*, *Bad Luck Blackie*.

TEX AVERY'S SCREWBALL CLASSICS IV (MGM/UA, U): Eight gold-plated classics from the master of zany animation, made at MGM in the Forties and early Fifties: including *The Cat That Hated People*, *Bad Luck Blackie*.

TEX AVERY'S SCREWBALL CLASSICS V (MGM/UA, U): Eight gold-plated classics from the master of zany animation, made at MGM in the Forties and early Fifties: including *The Cat That Hated People*, *Bad Luck Blackie*.

TEX AVERY'S SCREWBALL CLASSICS VI (MGM/UA, U): Eight gold-plated classics from the master of zany animation, made at MGM in the Forties and early Fifties: including *The Cat That Hated People*, *Bad Luck Blackie*.

TEX AVERY'S SCREWBALL CLASSICS VII (MGM/UA, U): Eight gold-plated classics from the master of zany animation, made at MGM in the Forties and early Fifties: including *The Cat That Hated People*, *Bad Luck Blackie*.

TEX AVERY'S SCREWBALL CLASSICS VIII (MGM/UA, U): Eight gold-plated classics from the master of zany animation, made at MGM in the Forties and early Fifties: including *The Cat That Hated People*, *Bad Luck Blackie*.

TEX AVERY'S SCREWBALL CLASSICS IX (MGM/UA, U): Eight gold-plated classics from the master of zany animation, made at MGM in the Forties and early Fifties: including *The Cat That Hated People*, *Bad Luck Blackie*.

TEX AVERY'S SCREWBALL CLASSICS X (MGM/UA, U): Eight gold-plated classics from the master of zany animation, made at MGM in the Forties and early Fifties: including *The Cat That Hated People*, *Bad Luck Blackie*.

TEX AVERY'S SCREWBALL CLASSICS XI (MGM/UA, U): Eight gold-plated classics from the master of zany animation, made at MGM in the Forties and early Fifties: including *The Cat That Hated People*, *Bad Luck Blackie*.

TEX AVERY'S SCREWBALL CLASSICS XII (MGM/UA, U): Eight gold-plated classics from the master of zany animation, made at MGM in the Forties and early Fifties: including *The Cat That Hated People*, *Bad Luck Blackie*.

TEX AVERY'S SCREWBALL CLASSICS XIII (MGM/UA, U): Eight gold-plated classics from the master of zany animation, made at MGM in the Forties and early Fifties: including *The Cat That Hated People*, *Bad Luck Blackie*.

TEX AVERY'S SCREWBALL CLASSICS XIV (MGM/UA, U): Eight gold-plated classics from the master of zany animation, made at MGM in the Forties and early Fifties: including *The Cat That Hated People*, *Bad Luck Blackie*.

TEX AVERY'S SCREWBALL CLASSICS XV (MGM/UA, U): Eight gold-plated classics from the master of zany animation, made at MGM in the Forties and early Fifties: including *The Cat That Hated People*, *Bad Luck Blackie*.

TEX AVERY'S SCREWBALL CLASSICS XVI (MGM/UA, U): Eight gold-plated classics from the master of zany animation, made at MGM in the Forties and early Fifties: including *The Cat That Hated People*, *Bad Luck Blackie*.

TEX AVERY'S SCREWBALL CLASSICS XVII (MGM/UA, U): Eight gold-plated classics from the master of zany animation, made at MGM in the Forties and early Fifties: including *The Cat That Hated People*, *Bad Luck Blackie*.

TEX AVERY'S SCREWBALL CLASSICS XVIII (MGM/UA, U): Eight gold-plated classics from the master of zany animation, made at MGM in the Forties and early Fifties: including *The Cat That Hated People*, *Bad Luck Blackie*.

TEX AVERY'S SCREWBALL CLASSICS XIX (MGM/UA, U): Eight gold-plated classics from the master of zany animation, made at MGM in the Forties and early Fifties: including *The Cat That Hated People*, *Bad Luck Blackie*.

TEX AVERY'S SCREWBALL CLASSICS XX (MGM/UA, U): Eight gold-plated classics from the master of zany animation, made at MGM in the Forties and early Fifties: including *The Cat That Hated People*, *Bad Luck Blackie*.

TEX AVERY'S SCREWBALL CLASSICS XXI (MGM/UA, U): Eight gold-plated classics from the master of zany animation, made at MGM in the Forties and early Fifties: including *The Cat That Hated People*, *Bad Luck Blackie*.

TEX AVERY'S SCREWBALL CLASSICS XXII (MGM/UA, U): Eight gold-plated classics from the master of zany animation, made at MGM in the Forties and early Fifties: including *The Cat That Hated People*, *Bad Luck Blackie*.

TEX AVERY'S SCREWBALL CLASSICS XXIII (MGM/UA, U): Eight gold-plated classics from the master of zany animation, made at MGM in the Forties and early Fifties: including *The Cat That Hated People*, *Bad Luck Blackie*.

TEX AVERY'S SCREWBALL CLASSICS XXIV (MGM/UA, U): Eight gold-plated classics from the master of zany animation, made at MGM in the Forties and early Fifties: including *The Cat That Hated People*, *Bad Luck Blackie*.

TEX AVERY'S SCREWBALL CLASSICS XXV (MGM/UA, U): Eight gold-plated classics from the master of zany animation, made at MGM in the Forties and early Fifties: including *The Cat That Hated People*, *Bad Luck Blackie*.

TEX AVERY'S SCREWBALL CLASSICS XXVI (MGM/UA, U): Eight gold-plated classics from the master of zany animation, made at MGM in the Forties and early Fifties: including *The Cat That Hated People*, *Bad Luck Blackie*.

TEX AVERY'S SCREWBALL CLASSICS XXVII (MGM/UA, U): Eight gold-plated classics from the master of zany animation, made at MGM in the Forties and early Fifties: including *The Cat That Hated People*, *Bad Luck Blackie*.

TEX AVERY'S SCREWBALL CLASSICS XXVIII (MGM/UA, U): Eight gold-plated classics from the master of zany animation, made at MGM in the Forties and early Fifties: including *The Cat That Hated People*, *Bad Luck Blackie*.

TEX AVERY'S SCREWBALL CLASSICS XXIX (MGM/UA, U): Eight gold-plated classics from the master of zany animation, made at MGM in the Forties and early Fifties: including *The Cat That Hated People*, *Bad Luck Blackie*.

TEX AVERY'S SCREWBALL CLASSICS XXX (MGM/UA, U): Eight gold-plated classics from the master of zany animation, made at MGM in the Forties and early Fifties: including *The Cat That Hated People*, *Bad Luck Blackie*.

TEX AVERY'S SCREWBALL CLASSICS XXXI (MGM/UA, U): Eight gold-plated classics from the master of zany animation, made at MGM in the Forties and early Fifties: including *The Cat That Hated People*, *Bad Luck Blackie*.

TEX AVERY'S SCREWBALL CLASSICS XXXII (MGM/UA, U): Eight gold-plated classics from the master of zany animation, made at MGM in the Forties and early Fifties: including *The Cat That Hated People*, *Bad Luck Blackie*.

TEX AVERY'S SCREWBALL CLASSICS XXXIII (MGM/UA, U): Eight gold-plated classics from the master of zany animation, made at MGM in the Forties and early Fifties: including *The Cat That Hated People*, *Bad Luck Blackie*.

TEX AVERY'S SCREWBALL CLASSICS XXXIV (MGM/UA, U): Eight gold-plated classics from the master of zany animation, made at MGM in the Forties and early Fifties: including *The Cat That Hated People*, *Bad Luck Blackie*.

TEX AVERY'S SCREWBALL CLASSICS XXXV (MGM/UA, U): Eight gold-plated classics from the master of zany animation, made at MGM in the Forties and early Fifties: including *The Cat That Hated People*, *Bad Luck Blackie*.

TEX AVERY'S SCREWBALL CLASSICS XXXVI (MGM/UA, U): Eight gold-plated classics from the master of zany animation, made at MGM in the Forties and early Fifties: including *The Cat That Hated People*, *Bad Luck Blackie*.

TEX AVERY'S SCREWBALL CLASSICS XXXVII (MGM/UA, U): Eight gold-plated classics from the master of zany animation, made at MGM in the Forties and early Fifties: including *The Cat That Hated People*, *Bad Luck Blackie*.

TEX AVERY'S SCREWBALL CLASSICS XXXVIII (MGM/UA, U): Eight gold-plated classics from the master of zany animation, made at MGM in the Forties and early Fifties: including *The Cat That Hated People*, *Bad Luck Blackie*.

TEX AVERY'S SCREWBALL CLASSICS XXXIX (MGM/UA, U): Eight gold-plated classics from the master of zany animation, made at MGM in the Forties and early Fifties: including *The Cat That Hated People*, *Bad Luck Blackie*.

TEX AVERY'S SCREWBALL CLASSICS XL (MGM/UA, U): Eight gold-plated classics from the master of zany animation, made at MGM in the Forties and early Fifties: including *The Cat That Hated People*, *Bad Luck Blackie*.

TEX AVERY'S SCREWBALL CLASSICS XLI (MGM/UA, U): Eight gold-plated classics from the master of zany animation, made at MGM in the Forties and early Fifties: including *The Cat That Hated People*, *Bad Luck Blackie*.

TEX AVERY'S SCREWBALL CLASSICS XLII (MGM/UA, U): Eight gold-plated classics from the master of zany animation, made at MGM in the Forties and early Fifties: including *The Cat That Hated People*, *Bad Luck Blackie*.

TEX AVERY'S SCREWBALL CLASSICS XLIII (MGM/UA, U): Eight gold-plated classics from the master of zany animation, made at MGM in the Forties and early Fifties: including *The Cat That Hated People*, *Bad Luck Blackie*.

TEX AVERY'S SCREWBALL CLASSICS XLIV (MGM/UA, U): Eight gold-plated classics from the master of zany animation, made at MGM in the Forties and early Fifties: including *The Cat That Hated People*, *Bad Luck Black*

REVIEWS

Hypnotic Czech tricks

THEATRE

The Maple
Tree Game
Courtyard, Leeds

IN RECENT years, this country seemed unable to notice more than one dissident writer per country: one Pole for Poland, one Czech, and so on. Pavel Kohout — Czech until his citizenship was withdrawn because of his links with Charter 77 — engagingly refers to himself as having been only Public Enemy No 2 or 3 in his country. Over here he has, until now, been better known as a name in someone else's work, Kohout's *Macbeth*, Tom Stoppard's tribute to Kohout's living-room productions that were his substitute for proper theatre when the end of the Prague Spring frosted the hopes of his generation.

The opening of the Courtyard Theatre, smaller sibling of the Playhouse of the Quarry Theatre, brings an opportunity to see something of Kohout's own work — "It is a funny tragedy," he says — although the distant source of this play is a novel by the Romanian writer, Mircea Eliade. Another of Eliade's books examines the myth of the Eternal Return, which has some bearing on the shapely play Kohout has fashioned, though as harsh political reality rather than myth.

One fine day at the Ministry of the Interior in some Danube country, the infinitely courteous Professor Farama, a retired school inspector, presents himself. He has come to see a certain

major whom he remembers as one of his pupils. The major denies it. Junior and rival officers become interested in the professor's story and one after the other are hooked on to his cunningly ramifying tale. He seems such a harmless old buffer at first, and Peter Copley plays him with old-time charm, nodding his bony, white-haired head, artlessly changing his tone, like a hypnotist up to his tricks.

Starting with Abdul the Tartar boy, who has a trick of catching flies (which rivets the attention of the Captain), the story twists on to a mysterious cellar (mesmerizing the State Inquisitor), until the colonel finds himself intent upon the habits of gnomes, and the Minister of the Interior (Avril Clarke), a woman whose baroque boudoir we eventually see, with her reclining as Mme Recamier, is carried away by the tale of a Carpathian beauty.

Gradually the Professor emerges as a sort of Czech Scheherazade, telling an endless story, not to save his own life but to play havoc with other people's.

John Harrison's direction of this shrewd and witty fable, set for the most part in black offices against towering bronze walls, allows each scene to breathe a little after the last words, so that some gesture or expression lingers in the eye. He has drawn a gallery of vivid comic performances from the professor's fascinated listeners, in particular from Ian Barrett's Inquisitor, who embodies one of Kohout's maxims that it is better to treat the tragic with a dusting of humour.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Avril Clarke and Peter Copley in *The Maple Tree Game*Little Love
Lyric, Hammersmith

SELLING babies is a promisingly off-beat subject for a comedy, but an unfortunate flabbiness mars this new play by Stephen Fagan, in which two unscrupulous doctors set themselves up as baby-brokers, only to encounter problems of supply and demand.

It should be an incisively topical subject, but naturalistic comedy has a habit of seeming sadly dated, particularly when it borders on farce. At times, Justin Greene's production has the air of an extended charades match played in a cathedral. It is in danger of being out-classed by the flashy detail of Caroline Elliott's stylish set design, but is fortunate that the acting is meticulous, the characterizations delightful.

Of the two naughty doctors, Francis (Brian Protheroe), is the more wicked; lethally suave in his cream suit, and apparently constructed of sandpaper and olive oil. Paul (Benjamin Whitrow), meanwhile, is a mint humbug of a man: rather sweet, balding and soft-centred.

They are assisted in their mis-

carriage of justice by Nurse Careswell (Ilona Linthwaite), an acerbic wit who may be pictured somewhere between Gilda Jackson and a young fairy godmother, a sanity-figure who does her best to raise the drama onto a more meaningful level. Ciaran Madden stands out for her sipping portrayal of the adoptive mum, all vowels, smiles and longings.

Punctuated by realistic baby noises and the unwelcome strains of *Four Seasons*, there is a lot of rushing in and out with trolleys and babies and fat wads of banknotes, and some heated discussions in which the links between Hippocrates and hypocrisy begin to seem very close. We utter and choke — at one point we even hold our breath — but altogether the play is a mess.

Every heavily-padded bundle of loose ends undoubtedly has its moments, but this one is too frivolous to amount to effective black comedy, and too flaccid for successful farce.

Heavily cut, it might make a successful first episode for a television sitcom. As it stands, it lacks muscle, and sags like an old man's smile.

MICHAEL WRIGHT

The Floating
Light Bulb
Nuffield,
Southampton

WOODY ALLEN only gave the go-ahead for this revival of his sweet-sour comedy, first seen in New York in 1981, after careful vetting. He need not have worried, for Patrick Sandford's production is a little gem; authentic, truthful and beautifully acted. Such problems as exist stem from the writing: funny, poignant, but not, in a sustained way, dramatic.

The setting is a dingy Brooklyn apartment, atmospherically recreated in Robin Don's set using black-projections and gauze. The marriage of Enid and Max Pollack is as shaky as some of the furniture; their teenage sons react in opposite ways. Steve is aggressive and cocky (Paul Russell is a miniature James Cagney), Paul, practising to be a magician, is nervous and withdrawn.

Gian Sammarco, apparently alone to millions as Adrian Mole, achieves considerably more than a brilliant impersonation of the young Allen. The hollow-

cheated slouch and earnest, pleading gaze of Allen, but Sammarco imbues Paul with independent dramatic life. He is Woody without the wisecracks, without the sense one gets in the films that, as well as being a gibbering incompetent, he is highly successful and attractive. Crippled by a stutter, without an ounce of self-confidence, Paul is hardly a comic figure. Hats off to a highly talented young actor.

Paul's problem, of course, is mother (though father, played by Sam Douglas, as a 250lb emotional flyweight, scarcely helps). Sylvia Syms effortlessly casts off Noel Coward associations by looking and sounding every inch and vowel a Brooklyn housewife. First girlishly coy, then a hectoring terrier, she demonstrates brilliantly the mother-love which ummums. Lee Montague contributes a delicious cameo as a theatrical manager who does not quite live up to expectations.

The problem? Perhaps it is a question of construction — no real end. Or a failure to pursue events to their logical conclusion — here tragedy rather than comedy.

HARRY EYRES

OPERA

Vincent
Helsinki

IN THE year of Van Gogh's centenary, and in the week of the great £50 million art sale, *Vincent*, the opera, was born. The birth has taken place not in Holland but in Finland. So fast-moving is the country's cycle of supply and demand that a vast new opera house, rectilinear and snow-white, is already rising from its building site to vie with the Inter-Continental for the best view over Helsinki's sea-lake. When it is completed in 1992, it will seat twice as many spectators as the 19th-century theatre which now houses Finnish National Opera.

For Einijuhani Rautavaara's *Vincent*, though, the Tsar's old house provides just the intimate scale required by this unrelenting claustrophobic work. Unlike the writing of compatriots such as Paavo Heikkinen or Aulis Sallinen (whose *The King goes forth to France* visited Covent Garden in 1987), Rautavaara's opera zooms in on an individual, rather than panning over the wider spaces of frequently surreal action and verbal complexity which characterizes much contemporary Finnish opera.

The structure of *Vincent* is simple to the point of naivety. Three acts, each one introduced by a distinctive and oppressive synthesizer "canvas", recreate the artist's life in fast flashback. Between the raising and lowering of the cage which is St Rémy, the

relationships, the encounters and the existential debates of the life as revealed in the letters rush out in a stream of consciousness fed by a whole series of 12-tone rows and, more audibly, by a vibrant underflow of string and percussion-dominated orchestral writing.

The consciousness is, of course, entirely Vincent's, and therein lies the opera's weakness. For all the energy of its vocal writing, for all its strong and masterly pacing, the limited viewpoint makes for a limiting polarity of musical and dramatic characterization. Van Gogh is a part conceived for, even originally suggested by, Finland's leading baritone and Vincent look-alike, Jorma Hynninen. He is the Christ to the devil of Paul Gauguin (Marko Pulkkinen). The experience of woman, too, is split into the bad old dichotomy of

angel (Gaby, played by the composer's wife, Sini) and whore (Maria Hoonnik, sung by the mezzo, Eva-Liisa Saarinen).

The libretto (Rautavaara's own) suggests there is room for rather more sophistication than Jussi Tapola's production provides. His caricaturing of the ever-changing, yet increasingly predictable quartet of bureaucrats (by turns doctor, priest, critic, secretary and so on) is less effective than his handling of the surging crowd of inmates and brothel guests, sung so robustly by the chorus. Tapola was, however, placed in the unhappy position of building on a foundation already laid by the late Göran Järvelid. With a cleaner slate, and with conducting as committed as that of Funt Mansurov, *Vincent* may well travel far.

HILARY FINCH

The Concise Crossword can be found on Page 15

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 22

CHUNCHERINCHIE (c) A white-flowered South African plant of the star-of-Bethlehem genus, also colloquially chink, said to be imitative of the flower-stalks rubbing together.

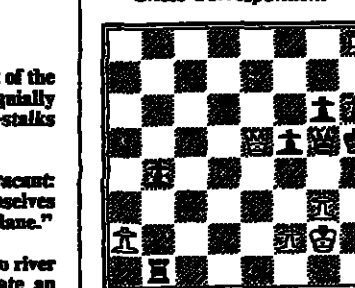
VAKE (a) Empty, from the Latin *vacare* vacant: "Certain conspirators possessed themselves of a vake house, standing over a narrow lane."

VISTULA (a) "Cross between vista and flutula. Also river in Russia." Helprin. "I would appreciate an answer to rectify the vista in my crossword transcript. As could you also tell us about rattlesnakes?"

SLAMDANCING (a) Dancing engaged in by fans of heavy metal and similar forms of rock music, in which dancers jump up and down frenziedly and collide violently with each other: "The trouble began when the party-goers started slamdancing to the Beatles' hit 'Fight For Your Right To Party'."

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent



This position is from the game Simagin (White) — Abramov (Black), Moscow 1949. How can White win immediately? Solution in tomorrow's Times. Solution to yesterday's position: 1 Qxg5 1 Exg5 2 Kxg5 3 Kxg5 4 mate.

ENTERTAINMENTS

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 071 536 3161 cc
The Royal Ballet
The Kirov Ballet
Tues 7.30
Wed 7.30

COLISEUM 071 536 3161 cc
The Royal Ballet
The Kirov Ballet
Tues 7.30
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THEATRES

ADRIAN 071 536 7611 cc
The Royal Ballet
The Kirov Ballet
Tues 7.30
Wed 7.30

ADRIAN 071 536 7611 cc
The Royal Ballet
The Kirov Ballet
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Wed 7.30

NEW RELEASES

THE GODS MUST BE CRAZY II (PG): Cornall cut-up in the Kalamazoo desert with a bunch of civilization's finest, an African bushman and his children. Grade comedy for the uninitiated; director James Frawley. (Cannon Video) (071-536 0310).

MAX, MON AMOUR (R): Nagisa Oshima's *Max* tells of a bored bourgeois wife (Christine Lahti) in love with a charming, elegant, but annoyingly misfit. With Anthony Quinn, Steve Allen, ICA Cinema (071-536 3547).

TORRENTS OF SPRING (PG): Jerry Seinfeld's plush, bewitching adaptation of Turgenev's short novel about a young Russian aristocrat (Timothy Hutton) weaving between two women (Kirstie Alley, Victoria Beckham). Curzon Video (071-438 4852).

CURRENT

ALL DOGS GO TO HEAVEN (U): Disappointed, unappealing cartoon fantasy about a low-life dog returning from the dead. Whiteleys (071-732 3303/3324).

CINEMA PARADISO (PG): Giuseppe Tornatore's nostalgic tale of a small Sicilian cinema, a highly appealing salute to the movies. Curzon Video (071-438 4852) Phoenix (071-438 4851).

DRIVING MISS DASY (U): Sweet, endearing film of Alfred Bray's play about a refined Southern lady (Jessica Tandy) and her black chauffeur (Morgan Freeman). Directed by Bruce Beresford. Curzon Video (071-438 4852) Phoenix (071-438 4851).

BUSINESS, A LOVE STORY (U): Isaac Bashevis Singer's novel about a Holocaust survivor's complicated love life, skilfully filmed by Paul Mazursky. Ron Silver, Anya Heller. Barban (071-638 8881) Camden Parkway (071-287 7034) Camden Parkway (071-287 7034).

THE FABULOUS BAKER BOYS (U): Highly diverting tale of a blonde singer (Michelle Pfeiffer) and two cocktail pianists (Jeff and Beau Shugart). Curzon Video (071-438 4852) Phoenix (071-438 4851).

HENRY V (PG): Visually rich version of Shakespeare's play from wunderkind Kenneth Branagh, who directs and stars. With Paul Scofield, Emma Thompson, Judi Dench. Curzon Video (071-438 4852) Phoenix (071-438 4851).

THE HUNT FOR RED OCTOBER (PG): Sean Connery in Soviet thriller. Curzon Video (071-438 4852) Phoenix (071-438 4851).

INTERNAL AFFAIRS (R): Richard Gere and Andy Garcia as Los Angeles cops sucked into a vortex of mystery and corruption. Theirs is a thriller, given some look by British director Mike Figgis. Curzon Video (071-438 4852) Phoenix (071-438 4851).

JESUS OF MONTREAL (R): An updated version of a Passion Play causes controversy in Montreal. Strained satirical. Curzon Video (071-438 4852) Phoenix (071-438 4851).

ASSURED PERSON SINGULAR: Avidness's satirical play about comedy, directed by the author. Whitehall Theatre, Whitehall, London SW1 (071-977 1118). Curzon Video (071-438 4852) Phoenix (071-438 4851).

BEING AT HOME WITH CLAUDE: A systems-on performance by Lorraine Bouteau as a woman on a number one. Curzon Video (071-438 4852) Phoenix (071-438 4851).

A CLOCKWORK ORANGE: A schlock horror musical; colourful, athletic, weird. Regency, Kingston, London W2 (071-836 9988). Underground: Charing Cross, London W1 (071-836 9988). Underground: Charing Cross, London W1 (071-836 9988).

COROLANNA: Charles Dance and a magnificent Barbara Jefford reunite the children of Isaac. Barban (071-638 8881) Camden Parkway (071-287 7034) Camden Parkway (071-287 7034).

DEBIRE: A play about a woman. Curzon Video (071-438 4852) Phoenix (071-438 4851).

FASHION: Revised revival of Doug Lauder's play about advertising ethics. Curzon Video (071-438 4852) Phoenix (071-438 4851).

THE DUCHESSE OF MALF: A play about a woman. Curzon Video (071-438 4852) Phoenix (071-438 4851).

MAN OF THE MOMENT: A play about a woman. Curzon Video (071-438 4852) Phoenix (071-438 4851).

SHIRLEY VALENTINE: A play about a woman. Curzon Video (071-438 4852) Phoenix (071-438 4851).

THE WOMAN IN BLACK: A play about a woman. Curzon Video (071-438 4852) Phoenix (071-438 4851).

THE DUCHESSE OF MALF: A play about a woman. Curzon Video (071-438 4852) Phoenix (071-438 4851).

MAN OF THE MOMENT: A play about a woman. Curzon Video (071-438 4852) Phoenix (071-438 4851).

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CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's selection of films in London and (where indicated) on release across the country.

THE GODS MUST BE CRAZY II (PG): Cornall cut-up in the Kalamazoo desert with a bunch of civilization's finest, an African bushman and his children. Grade comedy for the uninitiated; director James Frawley. (Cannon Video) (071-536 0310).

MAX, MON AMOUR (R): Nagisa Oshima's *Max* tells of a bored bourgeois wife (Christine Lahti) in love with a charming, elegant, but annoyingly misfit. With Anthony Quinn, Steve Allen, ICA Cinema (071-536 3547).

TORRENTS OF SPRING (PG): Jerry Seinfeld's plush, bewitching adaptation of Turgenev's short novel about a young Russian aristocrat (Timothy Hutton) weaving between two women (Kirstie Alley, Victoria Beckham). Curzon Video (071-438 4852).

DRIVING MISS DASY (U): Sweet, endearing film of Alfred Bray's play about a refined Southern lady (Jessica Tandy) and her black chauffeur (Morgan Freeman). Directed by Bruce Beresford. Curzon Video (071-438 4852) Phoenix (071-438 4851).

BUSINESS, A LOVE STORY (U): Isaac Bashevis Singer's novel about a Holocaust survivor's complicated love life, skilfully filmed by Paul Mazursky. Ron Silver, Anya Heller. Barban (071-638 8881) Camden Parkway (071-287 7034) Camden Parkway (071-287 7034).

THE FABULOUS BAKER BOYS (U): Highly diverting tale of a blonde singer (Michelle Pfeiffer) and two cocktail pianists (Jeff and Beau Shugart). Curzon Video (071-438 4852) Phoenix (071-438 4851).

HENRY V (PG): Visually rich version of Shakespeare's play from wunderkind Kenneth Branagh, who directs and stars. With Paul Scofield, Emma Thompson, Judi Dench. Curzon Video (071-438 4852) Phoenix (071-438 4851).

THE HUNT FOR RED OCTOBER (PG): Sean Connery in Soviet thriller. Curzon Video (071-438 4852) Phoenix (071-438 4851).

INTERNAL AFFAIRS (R): Richard Gere and Andy Garcia as Los Angeles cops sucked into a vortex of mystery and corruption. Theirs is a thriller, given some look by British director Mike Figgis. Curzon Video (071-438 4852) Phoenix (071-438 4851).

JESUS OF MONTREAL (R): An updated version of a Passion Play causes controversy in Montreal. Strained satirical. Curzon Video (071-438 4852) Phoenix (071-438 4851).

ASSURED PERSON SINGULAR: Avidness's satirical play about comedy, directed by the author. Whitehall Theatre, Whitehall, London SW1 (071-977 1118). Curzon Video (071-438 4852) Phoenix (071-438 4851).

BEING AT HOME WITH CLAUDE: A systems-on performance by Lorraine Bouteau as a woman on a number one. Curzon Video (071-438 4852) Phoenix (071-438 4851).

A CLOCKWORK ORANGE: A schlock horror musical; colourful, athletic, weird. Regency, Kingston, London W2 (071-836 9988). Underground: Charing Cross, London W1 (071-836 9988). Underground: Charing Cross, London W1 (071-836 9988).

COROLANNA: Charles Dance and a magnificent Barbara Jefford reunite the children of Isaac. Barban (071-638 8881) Camden Parkway (071-287 7034) Camden Parkway (071-287 7034).

DEBIRE: A play about a woman. Curzon Video (071-438 4852) Phoenix (071-438 4851).

FASHION: Revised revival of Doug Lauder's play about advertising ethics. Curzon Video (071-438 4852) Phoenix (071-438 4851).

THE DUCHESSE OF MALF: A play about a woman. Curzon Video (071-438 4852) Phoenix (071-438 4851).

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● SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY 33-36
● LAW 38
● SPORT 39-44

BUSINESS

THURSDAY MAY 24 1990

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Writ for Eagle's former auditor

EAGLE Trust, the troubled film camera and engineering conglomerate, which owes banks nearly £100 million, is to sue its former auditor, KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock (Jeremy Andrews writes).

Eagle said that the damages sought would be "substantial" in view of heavy losses sustained in Eagle Express, its parcel carrier business, and La Forza, a luxury car project.

Eagle Trust issued writs against seven former directors in March alleging breach of fiduciary duty. The writ served on Peat Marwick McLintock alleged breach of contract and/or negligence. Peat Marwick denied any liability to Eagle Trust and said that it would fight the case.

The claim centres on £14.9 million treated as a loan in Eagle's 1987 accounts that the Eagle board alleges was used to fund sub-underwriting commitments in connection with its rights issue in October. It also alleges that property at Bray, Berkshire, was overvalued by £3.5 million and that the audit failed to substantiate Eagle Trust's ownership of shares in Owners Abroad worth £3.2 million.

Saatchi sues seven who left

Saatchi & Saatchi issued writs against the breakaway team of five former directors and two staff that last week set up a rival advertising agency. The writs, delivered to Cowan, Kemley and Taylor's lawyers, allege breach of contract and include a claim for unspecified damages.

Mr Paul Cowan, managing director of the new agency, said last night that he and his colleagues would resist the legal action, due to be heard in court today.

BAT setback

BAT Industries, the tobacco and financial services group, saw first-quarter pre-tax profits fall from £318 million to £231 million and net earnings fall by 36 per cent to 7.93p a share. An interim dividend is to be declared on May 31.

Tempus, page 25

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6835 (+0.0020)

W German mark
2.8299 (+0.0060)

Exchange index
89.0 (+0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1810.0 (-19.5)

FT-SE 100
2287.4 (-23.9)

New York Dow Jones
2842.27 (-9.96)

Closing Prices Page 31

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Rate: 15%
3-month Interbank 15 1/8-15 1/4
3-month eligible bills 14 1/2-14 3/4
US\$ Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 8 1/4-8 1/2
3-month Treasury Bill 7.67-7.68%
30-year bonds 10 1/2-10 1/4

CURRENCIES

London: New York:
£: \$1.6835
DM: £2.8299
S: £1.4115
FF: £2.2060
Yen: £151.20
Index: 89.0
ECU: £1.72423
ECU: £1.38066

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$362.25 pm \$364.50
close \$363.50-364.00 (\$215.00-215.50)
New York:
Comex \$363.70-364.20

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jul) \$16.75 bbl (\$17.30)
Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

	Single	Double
Australia	2,355	2,195
Austria	61.80	118.50
Belgium	2,098	1,978
Canada	1,141	1,015
Denmark	8.96	6.58
Finland	8.94	6.58
France	2.25	2.71
Germany	205.25	289.25
Greece	13.80	10.36
Hong Kong	117	1,036
Italy	2,170	2,040
Japan	3,285	3,115
Netherlands	11.43	10.73
Norway	5.80	5.00
Portugal	183.50	171.50
Spain	2.50	2.34
Sweden	4535	4135
Switzerland	1.77	1.81
Turkey	23.75	17.75
USA		
Yugoslavia		

Rates for small denomination bank only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 125.1 (April)

Committee calls for overhaul of insider law

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

A COMPLETE overhaul of the system of dealing with insider trading is needed to achieve better enforcement of the law and protect the City's reputation, the Commons Select Committee on Trade and Industry reports.

A more flexible system could include introducing civil remedies, used by the Securities & Exchange Commission in the US, and regulators imposing penalties on the lines of tax assessments, against which alleged insider traders would have to appeal. In a report on company investigations heavily coloured by damning criticism of the DTI's treatment of the House of Fraser affair, the all-party committee unanimously concludes that DTI's record in enforcing insider trading laws in the past 10 years shows dilatoriness and blames delays in inquiries by the DTI in cases brought to it by the Stock Exchange as well as technical problems with the law.

The committee said it was astounded that it could take up to six months to appoint inspectors to investigate insider dealing cases already referred to the DTI. Decisions should be taken within 21 days

and appointments speeded up, perhaps using a permanent panel of pre-vetted inspectors. Investigations on insider trading should have a time limit of three months. The report also suggests changing the burden of proof to increase the rate of convictions and the number of cases the DTI thought worth pursuing. But it acknowledged the DTI had put more effort into insider trading law over the past two or three years and had improved.

But it asks: "If it takes 10 years to get to grips with one offence, what can be expected of (the DTI) as new schemes of commercial malpractice are detected?" It says that the response to insider trading since it was made a criminal offence is indicative of the DTI's general attitude to its regulatory responsibilities. "Rarely can a government department's discharge of its responsibilities have been held in such low esteem among others involved," it says. Mr John Redwood, Corporate Affairs Minister, said the DTI would take the 34 recommendations of the committee in a spirit of constructive criticism and give a measured response.

He will extend consultation on changes

to the insider trading law, which must be made to implement a European Community directive. But he would not commit himself on whether the Government would re-open the possibility of civil remedies, which Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Trade Secretary, has not favoured. He said the new compliance systems introduced in the City to cope with the Financial Services Act had probably deterred insider trading by making it easier to detect.

The committee generally supports the system of company investigations through outside inspectors. With one dissenting voice, it rejects proposals by the Bank of England and the Securities and Investments Board, in the wake of the County NatWest report, that DTI inspectors should confine themselves to investigating the facts and avoid judgments, which should be left to regulators.

This is likely to kill any moves to stop investigators making judgments in published reports, which the committee says are vital to understanding by the public and by ministers. But the Committee suggests several reforms to the system. It recommends large investigations be com-

pleted in a year and reports published immediately, partly to clear innocent parties, unless possible prosecutions were being pursued before the report was complete.

Inspectors should make recommendations for disciplinary or legal action where appropriate in a separate appendix to their reports, which would not be published. Those criticized by reports should be given a fixed time to respond and contested arguments should be published as an appendix to the inspectors' report.

Investigations, and company law in general should also seek to protect wider interests than just shareholders, as the regulatory system is aimed at defending the integrity of the financial system. More efforts should be made to recoup the costs of large investigations - which cost up to £1.6 million each - from those criticized. "It is especially scandalous that the taxpayer has had to pay £1.5 million for the House of Fraser inquiry."

Mr Kenneth Warren, chairman of the Committee, said recent changes in legislation, particularly the Financial Services Act and the setting up of the Serious Fraud

Office, had greatly improved surveillance of corporate malpractice and that it was too early to judge their workings. The committee also praised the DTI for putting through legal changes proposed in the HoF report and said it was impressed by Mr David Durie, now head of the DTI's investigations division. But it said its initial impression that the DTI is improving "has been confounded by the lack of action taken against the Fayed brothers following publication of the HoF report. It also suggests that in the long run, Britain may need a single authority such as the SEC."

The committee criticizes both Mr Ridley and Lord Young, the former Trade Secretary, for failing to act on the HoF report. But it has no criticism over the authority's failure to prosecute. It said charges might have been brought against the Fayed brothers, but Mr Ridley had said corroborating evidence to prove these had not been forthcoming. In a statement, House of Fraser said it was regrettable the Committee had sought fit to outline charges that might have been brought.

Report extracts, page 25

MMC blocks Kingfisher bid for Dixons

By DAVID BREWERTON

KINGFISHER learned yesterday that its proposed takeover of Dixons Group would not be allowed after a report from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission was put on sale at government bookshops a day early.

The merger is to be prevented on the grounds of the potential loss of competition in the sale of electrical goods which would be likely from the creation of a single group five times larger than its nearest competitor.

The blocking vindicates the campaign by Dixons to have the proposed takeover referred to the MMC, and has been accepted by all sides. After a morning of telephone calls and confusion as the report was sold early, Kingfisher offered Dixons "its best wishes for the future."

Dixons naturally welcomed the report and the acceptance by Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Trade Secretary, of its recommendations. Mr Stanley Kalms, Dixons' chairman, said the group's paramount aim is to rebuild long term value for its shareholders.

At one point during the morning, it was not known whether or not Kingfisher was

trying to reach a deal with the DTI to meet some of the MMC objections. But the DTI said in its statement, rushed out at lunchtime after trading in shares of both companies had been suspended, that the MMC had considered what action might be taken to remedy or prevent the detriment to competition. "It concluded no effective remedy could be found and therefore the acquisition should not be permitted. Mr Ridley's decision to accept the MMC's conclusions was in accordance with the advice of the Director General of Fair Trading."

There was, however, one dissenting voice on the committee of the MMC, which investigated the matter. Mr Colin Baillien, a member of Lloyd's, said he was "unafraid of the consequences of a merger." But the majority decision is that the national rivalry between the two leading companies in the industry has brought considerable benefits to consumers of brown and white goods, "both directly and because of its influence on prices and conditions of sale in the retail market generally. Removal of this rivalry from the competitive process would have a significant impact on com-

petition in the retail market, and thus on retail prices."

The MMC was not convinced by Kingfisher's argument that although the combined group would have national dominance, it would not affect competition, as the purchase of electrical goods was primarily a local activity. It took the view that prices at local levels were decisively influenced, if not determined, by "forces at national level."

The Commission pointed out that Dixons, Currys, a Dixons subsidiary, and Comet have created national chains, setting national prices and advertising their stores and products on a national basis.

Dixons and Currys is the largest British electrical goods retailing group. Kingfisher, through its Comet subsidiary, is the second largest. The Commission found the combined market share of the two companies would be between 21 per cent and 26 per cent depending on the definition of the market.

Kingfisher has already said it will expand organically if the merger was stopped. After the announcement, Dixons shares fell 7p to 124p, and Kingfisher rose 3p to 311p.

Comment, page 25

HMSO blames fiasco on 'hiccup' in communication

Timetable of a blunder

By STEPHEN LEATHER

A "hiccup" in communication was being blamed last night for the premature publication of a Monopolies and Mergers Commission report recommending that a £568 million bid by Kingfisher, the stores group, for Dixons, the electrical goods retailer, should be rejected.

The MMC report was due to be released by the Department of Trade and Industry today, but was available from a London bookshop of Her Majesty's Stationery Office,

As Mr Mulcahy replaced the receiver calls from analysts were flooding in to Kingfisher's head office asking for details about the report.

At 11.50 am Mr John Redwood, Consumer Affairs Minister, who is standing in for Mr Ridley, telephoned Mr Mulcahy to say that the DTI had intended to publish on Thursday.

Just before midday Kingfisher telephoned the Stock Exchange warning it of the possibility of a false market and to ask for the shares to be suspended. Twenty-five minutes later they were duly suspended. By then 5.5 million Dixons shares had changed hands and 3.5 million Kingfisher shares had been bought and sold. Significantly, not a single put option of Dixons had been traded.

The Stock Exchange has launched an investigation, but is unlikely to decide that there was a false market as the information was obtained from a public document. All the deals done before suspension will stand.

Shortly before 1 pm the DTI officially announced the

on Wednesday, and has written instructions confirming the time and date.

"Publication was effected first thing this morning," said the HMSO spokesman. "This is in accordance with plans previously agreed with the DTI. There appears to have been a last minute communication hiccup which we are investigating. I haven't been able to get to the bottom of it, but obviously something has gone wrong."

Following standard proce-

dures, the reports were stored in restricted areas and sealed in boxes clearly marked with the embargo date - 9 am, Wednesday May 23.

In all 2,000 copies were printed, of which 400 were released via Holborn. By 4 pm Holborn had sold 330 copies. Others were sent by Datapost to Stationery Office shops in Belfast, Birmingham, Bristol, Edinburgh and Manchester. Copies also went to interested parties and Parliament.

It has been speculated that one possible reason for the mix-up was that the DTI had telephoned to change the release date.

But the DTI insisted the release date was definitely Thursday. "It was not the intention of the Department that the report be published today," said a spokesman.

"But we became aware that it was on sale at an HMSO bookshop."

11.30am: Kingfisher informs DTI that report is on sale

MMC conclusions.

The DTI has launched an investigation into the mix-up. A spokesman confirmed that Wednesday had originally been the release date, but last week it had been decided to switch to Thursday.

HMSO insists it was told by the DTI to release the report

Bass frees its tie on 2,400 pubs

By MARTIN WALLER



Cautious cheer: Ian Prosser, the chairman, after announcing results yesterday

BASS, Britain's biggest brewer, is to have off about 2,400 pubs in its 6,800-strong tied estate to comply with the Monopolies and Mergers Commission report that was designed to weaken the power of the big names in the industry.

The group will sell the pubs or lease them free from any tie to take its products, said Mr Ian Prosser, the chairman and chief executive. He added: "I don't think that this will cause significant job losses. There are some significant costs." Analysts expect these to be taken as an extraordinary item below the line in the second half of the financial year.

Bass was announcing interim pre-tax profits to end-March up from £225 million to £247 million. The dividend is raised by 2p to 9p, but this was aimed at balancing the half-way and final payments and should not be taken as an indication for the year, said Mr Prosser.

The first half saw the completion of the £1.3 billion purchase of the Holiday Inns hotel chain in the US. Earnings for the seven weeks in which it was included in the first half failed to come close to covering interest costs of £25 million.

Operating profit from the pubs grew by 15 per cent, disguising a sharp regional disparity and a slowdown in sales in the south. A review of both brewing and pubs "confirms that the value of Bass businesses as one group is higher than their value as stand-alone businesses," Mr Prosser said. Bass owns its biggest-selling brands, giving it close control over its business.

Tempus, page 25

More bad trade figures worry City

By RODNEY LORD

ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE trade deficit fell from £2.09 billion to £1.78 billion last month. The City saw the deficit as the second bad figure in a row and sterling, shares and gilts all dipped initially.

By the close, the FT-SE 100 index was down 23.9 points at 2,287.4 and gilts by about half a point. Sterling, however, revived on continued speculation about British entry to the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System, closing 0.1 higher at 89.0. It was up 20 points at \$1.6935 after topping \$1.70 and 58 points at DM2.8298.

Exports rose £274 million to £8.67 billion and imports fell £32 million to £10.45 billion. Invisible trade was estimated to be in balance, leaving a current account deficit the same as the trade deficit at £1.78 billion, compared with a downwards revised figure of £2.09 billion in March.

Economists pointed out that nearly all the improvement came from erratic items such as ships, aircraft and precious stones. The surplus on oil rose from £164 million to £210 million.

Excluding oil and erratic items, the volume of exports in the three months to April was 1/2 per cent higher than in the previous three months and 11 per cent up on the same period a year earlier. Imports on the same basis were 2 per cent higher than in the previous three months and 3 per cent up on a year earlier.

Taking the first four months of the year together, the deficit has been running at an annual rate of nearly £22 billion compared with the Budget forecast of £15 billion.

Why City worries, page 25

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RHM stock falls after profits alert

By COLIN CAMPBELL

RANKS Hovis McDougall saw its shares tumble by 38p to 360p yesterday on a warning by Mr Stanley Metcalfe, chairman, that "full-year profits are unlikely to achieve the record level of 1989."

RHM said that interim pre-tax profits were only barely changed at £81.7 million (£81.5 million) on sales of £919.3 million (£893.4 million) because of the impact of high interest rates and the knock-on effects of the mild winter.

There was also increased competition in its markets. Trading in Britain, was, therefore, merely similar to the same period last year.

Overseas companies did well, but RHM saw mixed fortunes in its various divisions. In addition, the group has accounted for a £2.1 million extraordinary loss because of the re-call of a Mr Kipling product after a contamination incident.

RHM's interim interest charge rose from £12.4 million to £19.9 million. The figure compares with last year's total interest charge of £26.6 million.

The £188 million proceeds from the sale of its 70 per cent stake in Cerebos Pacific was received on April 20, and the sum will help to reduce gearing and facilitate the development of group interests in Europe, including Britain, and the United States.

The group is holding its interim dividend at 3.82p a

Outhwaite investors must find extra £76m

INVESTORS in the two troubled 1982 RHM Outhwaite insurance syndicates at Lloyd's must come up with another £76 million by July 23 to meet massive losses stemming from a continuing flood of asbestosis and pollution claims from the US.

The 1,614 names on twin syndicates 371 and 661, who have paid out £91.8 million towards the losses, face two additional payouts of £13.1 million each in 1991 and 1993 - bringing the total cash calls to £196 million.

Mr Edward Bloxham, the Outhwaite chief executive, said provisions for expected claims were cut from the £76 million estimated at the end of 1988 to £26.2 million, half of which has to be paid next year.

This is mainly as a result of the reduction of liabilities through negotiated settlements with 16 of the 32 syndicates from which Outhwaite took on the non-marine reinsurance.

Individual names will have paid £82,400 each for every £20,000 of business traded on their behalf, with £12,000 more outstanding.

"We perceive a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel as a result of the slowdown in the rate of deterioration," said Mr Richard Outhwaite, the underwriter.

But Mr Peter Nutting, chairman of the Outhwaite 1982 Names Association, which is suing Outhwaite and 80 members agents for alleged negligence, said: "Things are not going to get better; they can only get worse. The rate of deterioration is slowing, but the ship is still sinking."

Courtaulds rises to £168m

JOHN CHAPMAN



Top trio: Sipko Huismans, centre, managing director of Courtaulds, yesterday with Richard Lupton, left, finance director, and Sir Christopher Hogg, chairman

THE long-overdue rationalization of the European acrylic fibre industry is likely this year, according to Sir Christopher Hogg, chairman of Courtaulds, the paints and chemicals producer, which

has just demerged its garment making operations (Jeremy Andrews writes). Courtaulds has decided to "reduce its exposure" to acrylic fibres.

The slimmed-down group made pre-tax profits of £168

million last year, £8 million up on the previous year. Earnings per share were 32p, up 13 per cent. The final dividend is 8p, as promised in February.

Temps, page 25

Optimism over mortgages

By LINDSAY COOK, FAMILY MONEY EDITOR

NUMEROUS fixed-rate mortgage offers have been launched at interest rates ranging from 12.95 per cent to 13.95 per cent, and more are on the way.

Lenders have taken advantage of cheaper money market rates, which were temporarily brought about by City optimism on hopes of an imminent entry into the European Exchange Rate Mechanism. Building societies and other lenders are also expecting variable mortgage rates to

fall at the end of the year or the start of 1991, and to continue a downwards trend until the next General Election.

First Mortgage Securities has announced an 18-month fixed-rate loan at 12.95 per cent, with the option of a further fixed-rate loan at attractive pre-election rates in December 1991 (assuming a spring 1992 General Election) or a variable rate loan.

The £100 million worth of mortgages carry compulsory accident, sickness and un-

employment insurance, which works out at 2.75 per cent of the amount borrowed. The annual percentage rate is 14.1 per cent.

TSB is offering mortgages fixed for three years at 13.5 per cent, an APR of 14.6 per cent on endowment loans. Other fixed-rate packages have been launched by Yorkshire Building Society, Birmingham Midshires Building Society, Northern Rock, Norwich and Peterborough, and Britannia Building Society.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Countryside profits plunge 64% to £4m

COUNTRYSIDE Properties, the Essex housebuilder and commercial developer, suffered a 64 per cent fall in profits from £11.1 million to £4 million in the half year to March and turnover also shrank by 39 per cent to £27.9 million. However, sales of speculatively-built houses held up well and the setback was mainly due to a reduction in housebuilding in partnership with housing associations and building societies and the fact that no major office developments were completed during the period. The interim dividend is to go up by 9 per cent to 1.41p.

Housing turnover fell from £31.3 million to £22.7 million, but the bulk of the downturn was in partnership housing where sales halved. Gross profits in the residential division fell from £9.7 million to £5.1 million, while the commercial division slumped to £930,000 (£3.9 million).

Isopad slips to £2.06m

ISOPAD International, the heat control equipment manufacturer, has blamed "provisions on certain contracts" for a drop in pre-tax profits from £2.5 million to £2.06 million for the year to end-January. Turnover was up 30 per cent to £17 million, but earnings per share fell to 9.5p (12.2p). The total dividend is 5.5p (5p). More provisions are not expected.

Court rejects report plea

AN APPLICATION by the Manx government to publish the confidential Chadwick Report which investigated the collapse of the Savings and Investment Bank in 1982 was refused in the Manx High Court. But permission was given for it to be released confidentially to all members of the island's parliament and to legal representatives of depositors.

Whessoe ahead 78%

THE decision to withdraw from offshore module construction and heavy engineering fabrication in Britain continued to reap dividends at Whessoe, the Darlington engineer, with a 78 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £2.71 million in the half-year to end-March.

The interim dividend is increased by 0.5p to 1.75p, in part to ensure a more even spread over the year. The engineering division more than doubled profits, from £957,000 to £2.29 million, although the timing of various contracts last year depressed profits from instrumentation and control from £566,000 to £421,000.

Solicitor granted bail

MR MARTIN Isaacs, aged 33, of Marlborough Hill, St John's Wood, London, the solicitor charged with manipulating share prices after sudden changes in the Williams Holdings price last November, was yesterday remanded on bail by Bow Street magistrates pending medical reports. The case has been adjourned until June 21.

Brent Walker sells brewery

BRENT Walker has agreed in principle to sell the Tolly Cobbold Cliff Quay Brewery at Ipswich, Suffolk, in a management buyout. Adjoining the brewery will be a museum, public house and restaurant. Brent Walker, which will retain a stake in the brewery, intends the rest of the six-acre site to be a mixed commercial and residential development.

Marconi cable stake

MARCONI, the defence electronics subsidiary of GEC, is expanding into the fast-growing UK cable television market with a £6.8 million investment in Sheffield Cable Media, a British-funded consortium bidding for the Sheffield, South Yorkshire, franchise.

SCM, which finds out next week if it has won the franchise, is competing against seven others, backed by US and Canadian cable and telephone companies, for the area reaching 500,000 people. Marconi has taken a 20 per cent stake in SCM, and said it was currently talking to other cable companies, "some with franchises, some without."

Land Secs raises asset value despite slump in property

By MATTHEW BOND

PROPERTY values in the City of London fell by 2.75 per cent in the year to March, but Land Securities, Britain's biggest property company, has increased its net asset value by 2.1 per cent.

With the gloom over the commercial property sector seemingly darkening by the day, many observers had expected Land Securities to report a fall in net assets yesterday. That it did not do so prompted a 5p rise in the company's share price to 500p, sparking similar rises in other property investment shares.

Mr Peter Hunt, chairman of Land Securities, expects that the property market will pull itself out of its current trough. "I believe you can just begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel," he said.

Mr Hunt believes that most of property's current difficulties are due to high interest rates rather than any permanent imbalance of demand and supply, and expects confidence to return when interest rates start to fall.

The value of the Land Securities' portfolio has been estimated by Knight Frank & Rutley, the property agent, at £5.61 billion at the end of March, up £400 million.

Only £84.6 million of that increase came about through rises in value. Falls in the value of City property were

compensated for by modest rises in the values of shops and offices in the West End and in the regions. According to Mr Hunt, industrial property was the star performer, with an increase of 8.5 per cent.

Helped by this revaluation, shareholders' funds have risen to £4.43 billion. On a fully diluted basis, net assets per share rose to 867p.

There was a far bigger increase in pre-tax profits, up 17.3 per cent to £175 million. Net rents and interest receivable of £286 million covered total interest charges of £111 million 2.6 times. A final dividend of 12.25p makes 17p (14.4p) total.

The company's gearing, said Mr Hunt, was under 28 per cent. It is 10 years since Land Securities gave up capitalizing part of the interest paid on building its developments.

"We simply didn't have to any more," Mr Hunt recalled. Capitalizing interest lies behind most of the cash-flow problems currently affecting property developers.

The Land Securities development programme extends to more than 1 million sq ft of new offices, including the 170,000 sq ft Grand Buildings development at Trafalgar Square. Despite last year's fall in property values, the company also has five developments within the Square Mile.

Advertising success boosts Yorkshire

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK

SHARES in Yorkshire Television, one of the big five ITV contractors, rose 6p to 242p after it claimed to be winning an increasing share of national advertising revenue.

Yorkshire, which reported a 6.8 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £11.08 million for the six months to end-March, said its share of national advertising revenue is now 8.8 per cent compared with 8.5 per cent this time last year.

Revenue in the second quarter declined by 3.07 per cent compared with an overall decline across ITV of 4.04 per cent and Mr Clive Leach, the managing director, said April's advertising revenue is

up 7.8 per cent compared with 7 per cent for the network.

Interim turnover rose by 11.1 per cent, mainly through increased sales of dramas, particularly abroad, where sales rose from £1.02 million to £7.11 million.

This resulted in an increase in programme costs from £33 million to £43 million. Staff costs, however, were reduced from £19.5 million to £17.9 million. Mr Leach said programme costs will be "back down to their normal levels" in the second half.

Earnings per share rose from 18.3p to 19.3p, while the interim dividend is unchanged at 3.5p.

"I expect solid progress in a transitional year."

Patrick Sheehy, Chairman

THREE MONTHS RESULTS

	Three months to March		
	1989	1990	Change 89-90
£1 = \$1.65 at 31.3.90 (\$1.61 at 31.12.89)			
TURNOVER	£4,790m	£5,095m	+6%
PRE-TAX PROFIT	£318m	£231m	-27%

● Exceptional combination of factors at Eagle Star - severe weather underwriting losses and lower stock market values - led to reduction in pre-tax profit.

● Financial services: strong underlying business growth from Farmers, Eagle Star and Allied Dunbar - good increases in general and new life annual premiums.

● Tobacco: year started with a strong performance from the Group's tobacco businesses - trading profit up 12 per cent boosted by continued growth in export markets.

● Demerger and disposal programme almost completed - proceeds from disposals show Group's success in realising full value for shareholders from excellent businesses.

● "The first quarter will not be representative of the year as a whole", commented Patrick Sheehy. "I expect the Group to make solid progress in a transitional year."

● Special May Board Meeting to consider earlier dividend payment dates.



B.A.T. INDUSTRIES

The full quarterly report is being posted to shareholders and copies are available from the Company Secretary, B.A.T. Industries p.l.c., Windsor House, 50 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0NL.

Kingfisher denied the tastiest morsel

COMMENT

DAVID BREWERTON

Had the recommendation of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission on the attempted takeover not been such a foregone conclusion, fortunes could have made and lost yesterday morning. The incredible incompetence of the combined forces of the Department of Trade and Industry and the government Stationery Office over the publication of the commission report gave three clear hours in which the well informed investor could have profited over his ignorant counterpart. From 9am until the shares were suspended at lunchtime, there were some that knew and many that didn't.

The Stock Exchange, once told about the problem, acted with commendable speed. But the question which is not even being considered at this stage is whether or not there was a false market in the shares of the two companies. (In this particular instance, "false" is the wrong word. Probably it should be called a "knowing" market). Trade in Dixons shares was brisk as the shares sank 11p during the course of the morning. The

analysts were working on rumour, but there must have been some people in the market who knew. It is not only solicitors who employ an agent to turn up at the Stationery Office every morning, sharp at 9am, to see whether there's anything worth buying. If anyone feels upset by the lopsided nature of the trading, they should ask the Stock Exchange to consider ordering the deals to be unwound. They will not do so, of course.

Another uncertain aspect of the share dealings is whether or not those who traded on the basis of knowledge of the commission recommendations could be classed as insiders. The answer is probably not, since the information was available to everybody with £9.10 to spend.

The decision of Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Trade Secretary, to accept the commission recommendations as they stand was not difficult for him to arrive at. The creation of a new retail grouping

in electrical goods five times the size of its nearest rival could not by any stretch of the imagination be expected to pass the simple scrutiny of a commission bent on defending the public interest, especially when there are so few mitigating factors. Kingfisher will now take up "plan B", and expand by organic growth, and instead of having Dixons in its arms as a partner, will have it in its sights as its prime competitor.

The two are unlikely to continue to bash each other's margins in an all-out price war. Competitors less grown-up than Geoffrey Mulcahy of Kingfisher and Stanley Kalms of Dixons have learned to pitch their level of competition with such precision that it obliterates the little

men while leaving their own businesses intact. Both need to make money in a soggy retailing market, and since Kingfisher has little to gain by weakening Dixons through hitting its bottom line, the consumer is likely to pay more in any case.

But that does not make the commission wrong.

Digging deep

Eurotunnel chief executive Alastair Morton used a Claridge's luncheon hosted by *Reader's Digest* to repeat in public a long-held personal view that total cross-Channel traffic, when the tunnel is open for business, will be far greater than

forecasts prepared independently for the group's bankers. He has spoken in similar vein before, basing his contention on the two points — the preference for caution which underlies a banker's approach to project finance, and the phenomenon known to transport economists as "created traffic" — or more popularly as The M25 Effect. But on this occasion, Morton's timing is interesting.

In a couple of weeks, the group's bankers and shareholders will receive a fresh set of traffic forecasts along with details of plans for the crucial final financing which is intended to see the exercise through to completion and launch.

Eurotunnel remains deeply silent on what the new forecasts will reveal, which is clearly potentially price sensitive. But Morton's re-statement of one of his essential articles of faith will clearly be welcomed by the leaders of the banking consort-

ium which will be working hard to complete the £2 billion loan syndication by the autumn. For those involved are anticipating some resistance, especially overseas where the highly-visible battles earlier this year between Eurotunnel and Transmanche-Link, the construction consortium, have raised some concerns. In Japan especially, things are not done this way.

So far, those of Eurotunnel's forecasts which can be tested by events, for example projections of cross-channel traffic ahead of the tunnel opening have been shown to be cautious. But the created traffic effect, while almost certain to be significant, is almost impossible to quantify. In the South-east, almost every motorist has his own anecdotal testimony to the M25 effect.

Morton also made the point that the Government decision on public funding for a fast rail link from the tunnel to London has no impact on forecasts. Even if it goes ahead, the link will have no benefit for some years and in present value terms, makes a negligible impact on revenue projections.

TEMPUS

BAT stumbles on some bad luck

AFTER a spell of hardly putting a foot wrong, BAT Industries ran out of luck in the quarter to March as worse-than-expected insurance knock-ons and severely dented investment returns cut pre-tax profits by 27 per cent and net earnings by 36 per cent.

The market shares the view that the first-quarter outcome, with pre-tax profit at £231 million, against £318 million, was bad luck rather than bad management, and, year-on-year, that further profits progress will be seen. However, BAT has some catching up to do, and if earlier year-end forecasts were at £1.92 billion (compared with a notional £1.79 billion) they have now been trimmed to £1.87 billion.

The unbundling goes on, and should be finished later this year, when expected rises in motor premiums should help to arrest underwriting losses at Eagle Star, which totalled £115 million.

With Hovlake off its back — final costs of the fight, to be taken in the second quarter, should be below £100 million — BAT is to press ahead with development of financial services interests. Meanwhile,

tobacco generally goes well. One positive aspect of the Hovlake affair is that three dividends a year will continue to be paid, and the payment timetable will be shortened. The first interim is to be declared on May 31, and a year's total of 334p net seems likely.

BAT shares, at 684p, down 8p, go ex Wiggins Teape shortly and yield a prospective 7.1 per cent. The prospective p/e ratio is 8.6, which puts them on a rating not much better than a pure composite. BAT's share buy-in programme should resume once authority is re-granted shortly. On the view that the shares look cheap, ordinary investors can usefully put them on their buying lists, too.

Bass

THE jury may stay out over its £1.3 billion US purchase of Holiday Inn, but Bass has demonstrated the strength of its core brewing business over here with a 27 per cent rise in operating profits and a near 2.5 per cent jump in volumes.

Its response to the Monopolies Commission has been prompt. Analysts reckon the

vast majority of the 2,400 pubs which must be put at arm's length will be sold, leaving about 4,400. Within that total, the proportion of managed houses looks set to rise from about half.

Bass interim pre-tax profits were a little below best expectations at £247 million, up 10 per cent. The surprise was a sharp rise in interest payments, from £24 million to £71 million, after heavy investment and the Holiday Inns purchase but before the £300 million sale of most of the Crest hotel chain.

More details on Holiday Inns at the seminars planned early next month would be welcome. Until then the shares, selling at just short of 10 times prospective earnings assuming pre-tax profits in the £550 million area, look to be up with events.

Courtaulds

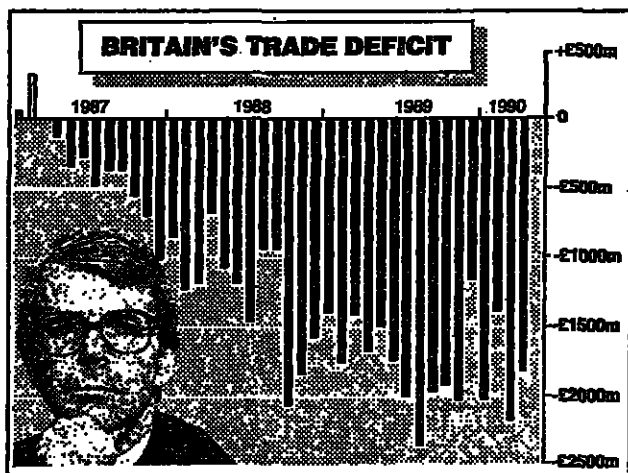
IT IS a shade puzzling why shares in Courtaulds took the announcement of its results for the year to March so badly. After an initial 2p rise to 240p, they swung round to close 10p lower at 328p, after 323p. Yet,

the reported pre-tax profits of £168 million were a full £8 million better than forecast in February in connection with the demerger of its former garment business, Courtaulds Textiles, and earnings topped the expected 31p by a penny.

One theory is that the stock is now followed by chemicals analysts who had misread the runes due to their lack of familiarity with the company. However, surely they could not have expected the forecast by Courtaulds to have been more than 5 per cent off beam just six weeks before its year-end? Equally, while the £23 million benefit from the adoption of SSAP 24 swamps the £8 million rise in profits over 1988-89, this was disclosed at the time of the forecast.

More convincing is the suggestion that the chairman, Sir Christopher Hogg, is lining up a major acquisition to coincide with the withdrawal of Courtaulds from its unremunerative acrylics business. With profits of £187 million and earnings of 35p in prospect, the shares are on a p/e ratio of 9, which is reasonable in view of the company's strong position in fashionable areas.

Never mind the exports, look at the import bill



who have generally supported the Government's strategy. Mr Peter Spencer of Shearson Lehman Hutton, the securities house, called the period of high interest rates "a huge rather than a squeeze," and noted that the squeeze has failed.

Taken literally, this is hardly true. Consumer spending has slowed down considerably from the rapid expansion of 1988. The housing market, which did so much to fuel the boom, has ground to a halt as recent failures among housebuilding companies testify. Yesterday's construction figures reinforce the impression of a continuing slowdown.

Some further tightening of domestic demand is expected to show through during the next month or two as the effect of higher mortgage rates impinges on those borrowers whose mortgages are only raised once a year in April.

But the City is worried that the squeeze on incomes is being gradually relaxed by

high pay settlements which put money back in consumers' pockets. In that sense the peak effect of high interest rates may already have passed.

Some economists, including Mr Spencer, draw the conclusion that there is only one thing left which the Government can do, which is to hitch the pound to the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System. The opportunity for a tighter fiscal policy has passed with the Budget. A further rise in interest rates is practically inconceivable because of its effect on mortgage rates so close to the next general election and because the pound is buoyed up by the imminent prospect of ERM membership.

Foreign exchange markets yesterday were certainly looking more to the possibility of Britain joining the ERM than at the trade figures. Despite a brief reaction when the figures were published sterling quickly recovered to finish the day in London up 0.1 on its

previous close at 89.0, though shares and gilt-edged securities took a dimmer view, ending lower on the day.

A gradual rise in sterling might do more than anything else to head off high pay settlements by convincing companies that they would not be bailed out by a fall in the pound. The Government's commitment to a strong pound is still on trial after the vicissitudes of the past seven months. ERM membership would convince many a doubting industrialist.

Meanwhile it is taking a long time to narrow the trade gap because of the position we are starting from. Import volume may be growing at little more than a quarter the rate of exports. But imports are already substantially more than exports. The result is that the difference between the two is not falling very quickly.

Taking the first four months together, the deficit is running at an annual level of £22 billion — even more in money terms than last year and well above the Budget forecast of £15 billion. Both imports and exports are growing faster than forecast.

In the Budget, the Treasury forecast volume growth in imports during 1990 of about 1 per cent which has so far been turning out at about 3 per cent. For exports, the Treasury forecast growth of 8 per cent which is turning out at 11 per cent.

Expectations have also been upset by invisibles, for which a surplus of 1.5 billion was forecast, rather than the zero figure currently projected by the Central Statistical Office. The first real figures will become available next month.

The immediate outlook for the balance of payments is difficult. If there is any comfort to be derived it is in Britain's export performance. Industry appears to have been more successful in redirecting its output to sales overseas than during previous periods of domestic economic slowdown. Consistent volume increases of more than 10 per cent are better than at any time during the 1980s. There may have been some underlying supply-side improvement in industry's flexibility and efficiency after all.

Rodney Lord

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Hard times hit Square Mile

CITY salaries have almost halved, in real terms, during the past two years. So says the head of an expanding securities firm in the Square Mile, who has been looking through dozens of job applications in recent months. He calculates that while salaries for both analysts and salesmen can range from less than £20,000 for a trainee to more than £100,000 for an exceptional performer, someone of average experience and ability is likely to earn a basic salary of about £55,000. "That sum really hasn't changed at all during the past two or three years," he tells me, requesting that he remain anonymous for obvious reasons. "But what has changed is the level of bonuses paid. Before the crash bonuses of 100 per cent or more, of basic salary, were quite common. These days the average figure must be about 25 per cent." That means that gross City salaries have fallen from £110,000 to £68,000 — a decline of 42 per cent. But that is very much an average figure. Not all firms, it seems, have the desire or need to thus cut costs. SG Warburg, which has had such a lucrative year in its corporate department — with the restructuring of Gateway alone thought to have netted something like £20 million in fees — that its bonus, due to be declared on June 4, is expected to be between 75 and 100 per cent. And that is on top of the 25 per

cent already paid at Christmas. "Warburg's still has the biggest market share in London, but BZW is snapping at its heels — and it's determined to keep its staff," my informant explains.

BARCLAYCARD, priding itself on being used in more places than any of its competitors, was put to the test recently when a cardholder found himself in a tight corner in Paraguay. Tim Attridge, a farming consultant from Horsham, went to visit an old friend who had been languishing without charge for three years in a jail. Asked for identification, and temporarily without his passport, he presented his Visa card and was instantly allowed in — prompting *Barclaycard* to claim: "We are accepted in more Paraguayan prisons than certain other charge cards we could mention."

Andy capped

THE slick ad-men from J Walter Thompson, who were signed up last year by Newcastle City Council, to change its "Andy Capp" image for a £1 million fee spread out over three years, have run up against old-fashioned Northern conservatism with their first formal proposal. Putting their proposition to the council, they explained that they planned to make Andy Capp himself the star of the campaign, and to change his flat-cap image. But Capp's Hartlepool creator, Reg Smythe, will have none of it. "There's no way they are

going to turn Andy into a yuppie," he protests. "He was never meant to be a hero, just funny. For Andy to take his cap off would be the same as Maggie Thatcher wearing a mini-skirt."

Dragon man

ST GEORGE must be turning in his grave... for the chairman of a Japanese bank has just been installed as chairman of the City branch of the Royal Society of St George, a fiercely patriotic body whose stated aims include "keeping fresh" the memory of those who have served England or the Commonwealth in the past, and "furthering English interests everywhere." The new incumbent, John Cunningham, aged 63, who runs Nikko Bank in Britain, is quick to point out that the bulk of his career — 40 years — was spent at Coutts & Co, the upstart British bank. "But the Japanese are very supportive of this sort of thing," he insists. "They will be a bit bemused when I tell them about it, however, and I will probably have to explain who St George is and what he did."

Trying their best

FEW City financiers, no matter how silver-tongued, have not tripped over their own words at one time or another. Anyone who thinks otherwise should speak to the fund managers at Meridian who, clearly with a little time on their hands, and in the front line when it comes to listening

to securities salesmen, have been secretly keeping a diary of what they consider to be the worst stockbroking *faux pas*. Anonymous, to spare their broking colleagues any additional embarrassment, the still-expanding collection includes such gems as: "The average growth is above average," and "The dollar should not be where it is now, it should be somewhere else."

Alarm call

IF VISITORS to W H Smith's head office in Holbein Place, are seen to be looking heavenward before dialling on their mobile phones, it will, for once, have nothing to do with difficulties in obtaining a line. The company has been plagued in recent weeks by a spate of false fire alarms, with one such alarm being raised in the midst of luncheon yesterday, causing the building to be evacuated. Suffering from indigestion, and determined now to track down the cause, an insider tells me it turned out to be some hapless individual who was using his portable phone beneath a smoke detector and inadvertently activating the alarm. "We've already been in touch with British Telecom and various other experts but none of them can explain exactly why this occurs," says my source. "We are now having to advise everyone who enters the building to check the ceiling before using their phones."

Carol Leonard

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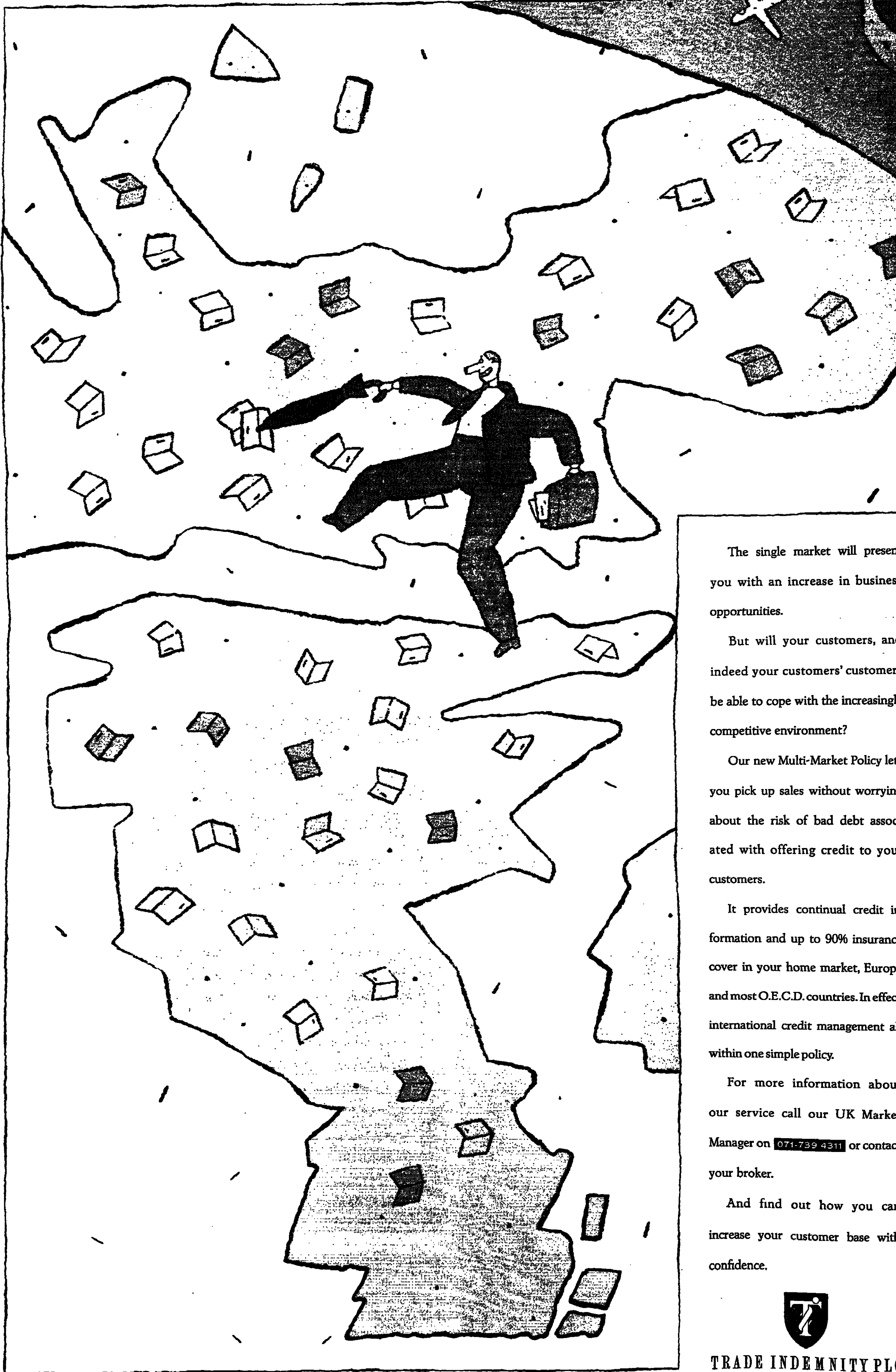
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Japanese consortium aims to launch into space race

From JOE JOSEPH, TOKYO

A CONSORTIUM of some of Japan's largest industrial and electronics companies has been formed to compete for a slice of the world's satellite launch business.

Its aim will be to take part of Japan's fledgling space industry out of government hands, and eventually to compete with the established agencies like France's Arianespace and others in America, the Soviet Union and China.

Rocket Systems, the tentative name for the new consortium, will be incorporated on July 5 under the leadership of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Japan's biggest aircraft manufacturer. It expects its first launch in 1993.

But Mitsubishi admits that the competition is stiff and

that Japan's likely challenger will probably be pricier than its rivals.

But Japanese companies, who presently use Ariane rockets, made by Arianespace, for their satellite launches may switch to the home-made rival.

The recent explosion over the Atlantic of an Ariane rocket carrying two Japanese communications satellites may have accelerated the decision to form the consortium.

Analysts in Tokyo expect the demand for commercial satellite launchings in the second half of the 1990s to be 15 to 20 a year.

Rocket Systems is pinning its fortunes on the home-grown H-2 rocket, the centrepiece of Japan's bid to join the elite club of nations with independent space technol-

ogy. The H-2's predecessor, the H-1, was a McDonnell Douglas clone.

But all has not gone well with the H-2. An engine test late last year that burned down the test centre was the latest of a string of embarrassing hitches.

However, if it does get off the ground in 1993 as planned, the H-2 will be able to put into orbit satellites weighing up to 2.2 tonnes — the same as Ariane 4 and competitive with the 2.4 tonnes of the US space shuttle.

The move into commercial satellite launching is part of Japan's growing interest in the space business.

Japan's space programme started in 1955 with a 12-inch rocket that flew to a height of 600 yards. But over the past

five years it has earned credit for its work analysing Halley's Comet and later this decade it is due to join Space Station Freedom, the international project led by the US.

In March, Japan joined the US and Soviet Union in sending a spacecraft to the moon. Japan's basketball-sized satellite was the first to visit the moon since an unmanned Soviet craft landed on the surface in 1976.

But Japanese scientists are still working with limited funds — Japan's annual space budget is less than one-tenth of America's. However, the money being made available is growing fast. Last year the government finally sanctioned long-term development of an independent manned space programme.

OFT to compare competing insurance schemes House warranty inquiry



Public first: Sir Gordon Borrie, Director General of the Office of Fair Trading

A MONOPOLIES and Mergers Commission inquiry into warranty schemes for new houses has been ordered by Sir Gordon Borrie, the Director General of Fair Trading.

Sir Gordon said that he wanted to ensure the public interest is being served by the present arrangements for the two existing warranty plans on offer to buyers of new homes.

The two schemes to be examined are Buildmark, issued by the National House Building Council, and Foundation 15, available from a subsidiary of Municipal Mutual Insurance.

"A house is the most expensive purchase a consumer is likely to make and if the house is newly-constructed there is a

clear need for the buyer to have the assurance it was built to good standards, was independently inspected and there will be protection if structural problems nevertheless develop," he said.

"But it is important alternative schemes should be able to compete."

The National House Building Council welcomed the investigation.

Mr Basil Bean, the chief executive, said: "The council has been quietly doing its work with such success that few now remember the early 1960s when a huge public outcry about the quality of house building led to debates in Parliament."

Trimoco results halved to £3.8m

By MARTIN WALLER

THE hard times in the motor trade are highlighted by pre-tax profits from Trimoco virtually halved in the year to end-March from £7.51 million to £3.81 million.

But the company, which is about 25 per cent owned by James Group, the new Saudi Arabian owner of Hartwell, the car dealership, is maintaining its full-year dividend at 1.4p with a final of 0.8p.

There is no sign of an upturn yet for the industry. "The feeling is very strong that it's going to be a bad summer," said Mr Duncan Naughton, development director.

Trimoco is already seeing orders for August delivery, when the next set of number plates are issued, indicating that some customers are deferring their purchases.

The worst damage during the last year was done by higher interest payments, which almost doubled from £2.21 million to £4.16 million. These in part related to the decision to buy in the group's leasehold properties during the previous financial year.

Trading profits from the automotive division fell from £7.27 million to £6.17 million, while property earnings were down from £2.44 million to £1.79 million. Included in this last figure was about £500,000 made from property trading, a decline from about £1.4 million last time.

Mr Roger Smith, the chairman, said the group continued to trade profitably from almost all its outlets.

The shares, depressed along with most other motor dealers' by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry into the industry, were unchanged at 17½p.

Loan rates 'hit plans to invest'

HIGH interest rates have curbed investment by small companies to the greatest extent since 1979, according to a survey by the Confederation of British Industry. About 27 per cent of smaller companies have cited the cost of finance as the main restraint on investment spending.

Mr Tom O'Connor, chairman of the CBI's Smaller Firms Council, said that continuing erosion of business confidence had an adverse effect on investment intentions. Of 700 companies questioned, 35 per cent were less optimistic, with only 14 per cent more optimistic.

Nobo stock falls

Shares in Nobo Group slumped 47p to 125p after the visual aids and office equipment manufacturer had terminated talks that might have led to a full bid.

Bett's setback

Pre-tax profits in Bett Brothers, the property developer, fell from £1.6 million to £1.3 million for the six months to February. The half-year dividend rises from 1.85p to 2.10p, out of earnings down from 6.61p to 6.51p.

Ambrit loss

Ambrit International, the oil and gas group, made a pre-tax loss of £1.3 million for the year to December — similar to the previous year's loss. Again, there is no dividend.

Profits slip

Ferry Pickering, the packaging group, saw pre-tax profits slip to £1.16 million (£1.3 million) in the half-year to February on sales of £13.9 million (£9.8 million). The interim dividend stays at 2.1p.

Architect down

Tribble Harris, the architect, saw pre-tax profits fall from \$2.6 million to \$1.16 million in the year to November. The total dividend is held at 3.2 cents out of earnings of 6.37 cents (loss of 9.14 cents).

Analysts expect further falls in US commercial property

From PHILIP ROBINSON, IN LOS ANGELES

THE state of the US commercial property market will deteriorate before improving, according to analysts studying the credit downgrading of Citicorp, America's largest bank.

Mr Burland East, property analyst with Bateman Eichler Hill Richards, the Los Angeles broker, said: "New England, where Citicorp has the most exposure, has not yet hit the bottom. The state has had a liquidity crisis and several banks have had to be rescued by the Government. Values are falling and people just can't sell what they've got in an attempt to cover their debts."

Four states have been hit by falling values of offices, shops

and factories. Many of the developments were funded by the now collapsing Savings & Loans institutions — the equivalent of British building societies — during the unregulated boom era of former President Ronald Reagan.

Texas is now thought to be over the worst, the market in Arizona has bottomed and California is flat, but analysts say New England has the worst problem. As a result, the US Government has needed to rescue a number of state banks and valuations of property-backed loans of even the largest banks have been reviewed.

Moody's Investors Service, the leading credit analyst, dropped the rating on \$37.4

billion worth of Citicorp's corporate and guaranteed debt on Tuesday, a severe blow to the bank's prestige and a move that will also cost it substantially more in borrowing costs.

Moody's said it believes Citicorp is vulnerable to the deteriorating national property market.

Banks have already been told to tighten what they lend to the property sector, thus starving developers of further cash.

But they are presently unable to sell properties when they foreclose on loans.

"It's like having a shirt with two left arms. It doesn't matter how cheap it is, it is only of use to someone with two left arms," said Mr East.

£1.5bn ANZ bank merger ruled out

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Australian Government has blocked the Aus\$3.4 billion (£1.54 billion) merger between the Australia and New Zealand Bank and National Mutual Life, the country's third largest bank and second largest life insurer, on competition grounds.

Mr Paul Keating, the Treasurer, said: "It is vital for the efficient application of the nation's savings that there should be a reasonable diversity of institutions."

"It is not sensible to leave the promotion of competition to market forces alone when there are pressures towards undue concentration."

Australia would be better served by the independence of its six or seven largest banking and insurance groups, although the Government did not wish to keep the two businesses entirely separate.

The deal depended on Mr Keating's approval. ANZ's acquisition of National Mutual

Royal Bank in March looks, the first stage of the deal, looks likely to be reversed.

ANZ's shares rose 20 cents to Aus\$4.90 on the news. Dealers had been worried that the merger would force ANZ into a rights issue. Analysts suggested that National Mutual may look at ways to gain an independent listing.

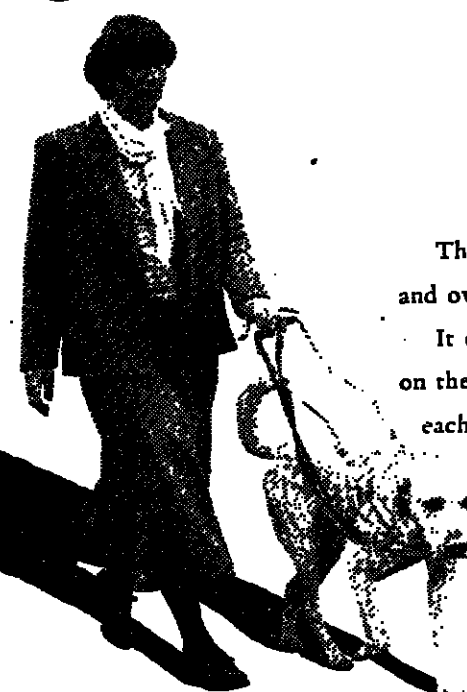
Mr Will Bailey, ANZ's chairman, said he was disappointed by the decision. "The merger has been based on a great deal of careful analysis, and was expected to produce very substantial benefits for shareholders, policyholders, bank customers and for federal taxation revenue."

The suggestion that the merger would limit competition was "simply not true."

ANZ's interim figures to the end of March showed net profits before abnormal items 3 per cent lower at Aus\$310 million. The dividend remains at 22 cents.

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COMPANY INVESTIGATIONS

Reforms in DTI's methods urged

EXTRACTS from the Trade and Industry Committee report on Company Investigations.

INTRODUCTION

A VITAL factor in the success of any developed economy is the soundness, clarity and effectiveness of the laws and rules governing the proper operation on the financial markets and the running of companies. Without confidence in their integrity, the efficiency of those institutions will be undermined. Laws and rules that are not, for one reason or another, enforced bring the system into disrepute. The Department of Trade and Industry is largely responsible for the policing of company law, though other bodies, such as the Bank of England, have specific duties. The Committee has inquired into how the DTI carries out that task.

TIMESCALE

The average time for completion of a basic fact-finding (s447) inquiry was 105 days in 1988-89 against a target of 92 days. For insider dealing cases it is 11 months. For a major investigation the average time is two years and four months. These delays have been described as "scandalous".

The DTI has acknowledged that past cases took longer than they would have liked. Recent cases have been dealt with more quickly.

Apart from delays in setting up an inquiry, there are a number of reasons for the time it takes.

- Difficulty in arranging interviews with witnesses.
- Witnesses abroad.
- Barrister inspector in court.
- Overseas link in the affair.
- Abuse by witnesses of right to see criticism.

DTI officials told us: "There is a tension between speed and fairness" but "A lot has been done to remedy the delays." The House of Fraser inspectors reported "in the closing stages of our inquiry we were very conscious of [these] competing pressures." It is the DTI's intention never to allow cases to go on as long in future. We consider this important for the interests of innocent parties and to satisfy both domestic requirements (such as the time limit on damages) and overseas statutes of limitation.

Among the measures being taken are the more flexible powers in the Companies Act 1989 to discontinue an inspection (section 57), to appoint inspectors on the basis that their report will not be published (section 55), to co-operate more with overseas regulators (sections 82 and 83) and to order partial reports (section 57). These provisions came into effect on February 21 1990. Delays in producing reports have been unacceptable long in the past. They have brought the whole system of Companies Act inspections into disrepute and have been an important reason for the Companies Act 1989.

In insider dealing cases, we have been told that the prospects of a successful prosecution are reduced by a long interval between the dealing and the trial. The DTI says, on the basis of slim experience of insider dealing prosecutions, that the chances of a conviction are greater if inspectors have been appointed.

We recommend that inspectors appointed to carry out major investigations should be expected to report within 12 months.

We recommend that insider dealing inspectors be expected to report within three months.

NATURE OF REPORTS

Should inspectors just find facts or should they also draw conclusions? The Secretary of State has a fairly open mind. At present inspectors do identify individuals for criticism, but are encouraged by the DTI to do so in moderate terms.

The Bank of England and the Securities and Investments Board told us that in their view inspectors should establish fact rather than make judgements. Employers and regulatory bodies would then decide whether an individual's conduct was in breach of the standards expected in his profession. The inquiry process would be speeded up, because inspectors would not have to spend time consulting witnesses about possible criticism of them. Published reports would not lambast individuals without any apparent remedy.

Most of our evidence points the other way. Unless conclusions are drawn, lessons may not be learnt and remedial action may not be taken. It was pointed out to us that one of the reports on the DTI's handling of the Barlow Clowes affair was prevented by its terms of reference from attributing blame, drawing conclusions or making recommendations. This made it more difficult for those reading it to judge who was responsible for mistakes. The County NatWest and House of Fraser reports would be meaningless to the lay reader (including the Secretary of State) to whom they are addressed unless some conclusions had been drawn.

If a report does not identify those to blame for some misconduct, it will also fail to exonerate others involved whose actions were blameless. The wholly innocent may be tarred by association with events for which inspectors would not hold them responsible. We note that officials and ministers at the DTI were largely exonerated by the HoF inspectors, when a mere statement of the facts might have led the reader to a different conclusion.

We would not expect anyone criticized in an inspectors' report to be happy about it.

Some custodial sentences would send a strong message that insider dealing is not acceptable conduct

DTI officials told us of the tension between speed and fairness.

It has been suggested that there should be a mechanism for appeal against criticism in reports. Regulators, employers and prosecutors may listen to contrary arguments before deciding whether to take action of the criticism. Ultimately the only resort for the aggrieved subject of criticism is the courts by way of an application for judicial review. We note that those involved in the HoF case were given a specific opportunity to make such an application prior to publication of the report.

We recommend that inspectors should continue to draw conclusions from the evidence they take.

We recommend that inspectors should make recommendations about whether some action should be taken against individuals and any remedial steps to prevent similar events occurring.

We recommend that inspectors' recommendations for prosecution or disciplinary action by employers or regu-



Report surprised at Bank of England delay; Mohamed Fayed outside Harrods, part of House of Fraser

latory bodies in respect of individuals should be contained in a separate appendix to their report.

We recommend that the Handbook of the Companies Inspection System be amended to advise inspectors to serve on all those to be criticized in a report the substance of that criticism, with a deadline for response of 21 days and that any response received which the inspectors do not accept should be published as an annex to their report.

We recommend that witnesses should be provided with a copy of the transcript of their evidence.

PUBLICATION

The reasons for not publishing reports are that publication might hamper investigation of crime, prejudice a fair trial, publish defamatory statements or advertise a novel fraudulent practice. In the recent cases of County NatWest and HoF the first two factors were relevant; the County NatWest report was published soon after completion; the HoF report was not.

We consider that the danger

of publishing defamatory statements would be avoided if inspectors exercised restraint in the tone of their criticisms. Lord Alexander told us "we must not over-emphasize the risk to a fair trial of the publication of reports." We would expect the DTI to move quickly enough in future to forestall any novel fraudulent practice revealed by a report before a fraudster hurrying from the Stationery Office with his newly-acquired copy of a report could benefit from the practice, apart from the practical problem that a report can leak long before it is published.

This leaves one circumstance in which publication might be prejudicial to the ultimate public interest: when criminal investigations have started during the inspector's work and might be hindered by completion and publication of the report. On the other hand completion of the report may be hindered by the criminal investigation. This was broadly the situation for Companies Act inspections of Guinness and Barlow Clowes.

We conclude that in such circumstances the public interest lies first in bringing individuals to court before completion and publication of the report.

We recommend that all major investigations reports be published as soon as possible, not least on account of their effect on markets and trading.

We recommend that normally only the appendix recommending criminal proceedings or disciplinary action should not be published.

We recommend that publication should be delayed only in cases where a criminal investigation has begun before completion of the report and where it would be hindered by publication.

INSIDER DEALING

Insider dealing is important not just as one aspect of commercial malpractice. It demonstrates the DTI's responsiveness to new problems in enforcement. Insider dealing has been a criminal offence since 1980. Where incidents of insider dealing are detected, it is usually by the Insider Dealing Group of the International Stock Exchange.

Their study share-dealing prior to price-sensitive announcements. Acting on this analysis or on information received, they conduct a preliminary investigation. If evidence of insider dealing is found, the case is passed to the DTI. The DTI can:

- Decide to appoint inspectors under section 177 of the Financial Services Act 1986;
- Prosecute without appointing inspectors;
- Authorize the Stock Exchange to prosecute (a new power under section 209 of Companies Act 1989);
- Take no further action (but inform other regulators).

Since 1980, there have been 10 convictions for insider dealing (one of which was overturned on appeal). The ISE has conducted about 240 inquiries since May 1988 and has passed about two a month to the DTI. Since 1985 101 cases have been transferred in this way; inspectors have been appointed in 41 cases; there have been 19 prosecutions and 10 convictions.

The DTI point out that the proportion of cases in which inspectors have been appointed has increased significantly over the last five years. Half of the prosecutions (and half of the convictions) which have taken place since 1980 occurred in 1989. The DTI

seemed to attribute this to an improvement in the quality of the evidence. They also said that cases in which inspectors have been appointed have resulted in more successful prosecutions than those which have not.

The bare figures for the UK show little investigative activity in the years after the offence was first introduced and then consolidated, followed by an apparent burst of effort in the last two years. This is a decade after the criminal offence was created. Between 1980 and 1986, it is thought that the Stock Exchange referred about 100 cases to the DTI but only nine prosecutions resulted.

There is no doubt that insider dealing is a difficult offence to prove. It is also the case that the prospects of a successful prosecution are improved by the appointment of inspectors but diminish with time. For these reasons we are astounded that it takes the DTI as long as six months to appoint inspectors. We conclude that the DTI's record over the past 10 years shows dilatoriness in enforcing the insider dealing law.

The experience of recent cases certainly points to the inadequacies in the law and inexperience among both prosecutors and courts in dealing with cases. We welcome the Government's proposal to simplify the law on insider dealing. We do believe however that more consideration needs to be given to the possibility of civil remedies or sanctions for insider dealing.

To date, no one has served a prison sentence for insider dealing. One suspended sentence has been imposed. In six of the eight convictions secured by the end of November 1989, it is estimated that the fine exceeded the profit made or the loss avoided. While the prospects of detection and prosecution may act as a deterrent, we do not consider that the penalties actually imposed do serve to dissuade people from insider dealing.

We see no reason why loss of livelihood and reputation should be seen as an alternative to imprisonment. Some custodial sentences would send a strong message that insider dealing is not acceptable conduct in the City or elsewhere.

Giving the Stock Exchange inspectors the powers of investigators could save time and thereby secure more convictions.

There appear to be two ways within the existing system of law in which greater use could be made of civil penalties. One is the possible use of section 61 of the FSA. This enables the DTI and SIB to bring an action for breaches of the conduct of business rules. This action may seek an injunction and/or an order for disgorgement of profits. It has been suggested that insofar as the conduct of business rules address insider dealing as a specific regulatory offence, in appropriate cases, this provision could be used to deprive an authorized person who has engaged in insider dealing of his profits. This would however not cover many individuals, such as company directors, who have the opportunity to deal as insiders.

Another form of civil remedy would be for legislation to give the prosecuting authorities the power to sue someone for insider dealing as an alternative to prosecuting them. There would be a lower standard of proof and the penalty could be a multiple of the profit gained (or loss avoided) from the insider

dealing. A system such as this operates in the USA, but is founded on a different system of law. In some jurisdictions the law gives the company in whose securities the insider abuse occurred a right of action against the persons responsible. Where this right is not pursued by the company the action may be brought, on its behalf, by a shareholder.

We recommend that consideration should be given to amending the law so that a similar provision applies as in the Prevention of Corruption Act 1909 in which the onus of proof switches to the defence if the court is satisfied that a prima facie case has been established.

A procedure analogous to that used by the Inland Revenue, especially for Stamp Duty, could be used. When the DTI has received a report from the Stock Exchange on insider dealing it could require the persons concerned to answer questions (subject to the normal protections). On the basis of these a statement of facts could be served on him. If he did not dispute them he could pay a fixed penalty. If he

disputed them, he could appeal to the courts, which would have the option of imposing a larger penalty. We believe in practice that most cases would be settled at an initial stage.

We recommend that consideration should be given to attacking insider abuse in the UK not merely under the Company Securities (Insider Dealing) Act.

The DTI has a poor record on insider dealing, but is showing signs of improvement. What is particularly alarming is its speed of response to a new offence. The DTI's regulatory record in dealing with new developments is not impressive. If it takes 10 years to start to get to grips with one new offence, what can be expected of it as new schemes of commercial malpractice are invented?

We recommend that all insider dealing cases should for the time being be tried before Queen's Bench Division judges experienced in commercial law at a specified court.

We recommend that the DTI should decide within 21 days of cases being referred to them by the Stock Exchange whether (1) to appoint inspectors or (2) to allow the Stock Exchange to prosecute.

We recommend that steps be taken to introduce civil law sanctions against insider dealing.

EXPENDITURE

The total cost of DTI investigations in 1988-89 was £2.2 million, although the costs to DTI investigations are met by monies voted by Parliament, the income from Companies House fees and charges are set to recover the costs arising from the regulation of companies, including the costs of investigations.

A major investigation is expensive: the three major investigations completed recently each cost between £1.1 and £1.6 million. £2.9 million was spent in this way in 1988-89. An insider dealing investigation costs on average £100,000. £1.4 million was spent on this in 1988-89.

The DTI has limited powers to recover the costs of inspections under the Companies Act 1989 but does not expect

to recover much.

We recommend that greater steps be taken to recover the costs of investigations from the companies and individuals, unless the inspectors find no evidence of wrongdoing.

DTI

Much of our evidence relates to events which occurred before the implementation of the Financial Services Act 1986, the creation of the Serious Fraud Office in 1988 and the enactment of the Companies Act 1989. While these recent developments have significantly changed the situation, we are not convinced that they make the lessons of the past irrelevant or guarantee good performance in the future.

There are indications that the DTI's performance is improving. The DTI's general reputation among interested parties and observers has not improved. Rarely can a government department's discharge of its responsibilities have been held in such low esteem among others involved.

This reputation in itself undermines the effectiveness of the UK regulatory regime.

Ultimately, the DTI's performance in securing the efficient operation of free markets is a matter not of powers and resources but of attitude. Our initial conclusion that the DTI's attitude was improving has been confounded by the lack of action taken against the Fayeds following publication of the HoF report.

PROPOSALS

We recommend that broader public interests than just the duties of directors and the rights of shareholders should be reflected in company law and the way in which it is applied.

The permission for auditors to disclose confidential information to the supervisory authorities should be raised to the level of a statutory obligation.

Obligations should be imposed in the UK on intermediaries to exercise reasonable care to ensure they do not facilitate dishonest transactions.

The employment within the DTI of some high-calibre individuals capable of conducting investigations, assisting other regulatory bodies and overseeing training and legal advice.

The DTI should require inspectors whom it appoints for Companies Act inquiries to devote at least three-quarters of their professional time to the inquiry.

The DTI continue to use accountants and barristers as outside inspectors appointed for specific inquiries and that greater use be made of others with professional expertise in particular cases.

Properly qualified, experienced and suitably paid senior DTI staff should be used more extensively in tandem with one outside inspector.

The Handbook of the Companies Inspection System should be updated annually to give more information on conduct of investigations.

The Government take steps to establish through OECD a database of commercial malfeasances and designate a UK regulatory body (such as the DTI) as the leading agent to ensure co-ordination.

A central clearing house established to (1) track all cases dealt with by different regulatory bodies; (2) maintain a database of people convicted (or otherwise publicly censured), for commercial malpractice, fraud, insider dealing, disqualification as directors etc; (3) supply information to other authorities abroad.

The DTI monitors closely the performance of the SIB and SROs in discharging their investigatory duties and reports annually to Parliament.

Regulatory bodies and employers should report to the DTI within a prescribed time the action they have taken.

The DTI should place a higher priority on improving the qualifications and breadth of experience of its own investigatory staff.

The Government take steps to develop a cadre of professionally qualified and skilled investigatory staff to support major investigations and work in regulatory bodies.

The Government do more to encourage accountants and solicitors firms to second skilled staff to regulatory agencies.

When legislation on company law is next put before Parliament, the investigatory powers should be reviewed, updated if necessary and consolidated.

Courts should have ruled on Fayeds' fitness as directors

HOUSE OF FRASER

WE have been greatly concerned at the lack of government action following publication of the inspectors' report on HoF. The acquisition of HoF took place in 1984 and 1985 when Mr Norman Tebbit, MP, was Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. The next Secretary of State, Mr Leon Brittan, MP, refused to appoint inspectors in 1985. Inspectors were appointed on 9 April 1987 by Mr Paul Channon, MP. They reported on 27 July 1988 to Lord Young. Their report was published on 7 March 1990 by Mr Nicholas Ridley, MP. Thus five successive Secretaries of State were involved.

When the inspectors reported and when their report was published there were five ways in which action could have been taken.

- Prosecution of individuals for criminal offences;
- Reference of takeover of HoF by the Fayeds to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission;
- Implementation of recommendations by the inspectors for changes in the law;
- Disciplinary measures by regulatory bodies; and
- Disqualification of directors.

We have considered what steps have been taken under these headings.

We understand that, had sufficient corroborative evidence been available, charges might have been brought against the Fayeds brothers under section 15 of the Theft Act 1968, section 5 of the Perjury Act 1911, section 1(1) of the Prevention of Corruption Act 1906, section 3 of the Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981 and the common law offence of conspiracy to defraud. Mr

Ridley told us "corroborative evidence to prove these criminal offences has not been forthcoming."

In the absence of such evidence, the prosecuting authorities appear to us to have had no alternative than to drop the case when they did.

For a period of six months from July 1988 when he received the inspectors' report the then Secretary of State, Lord Young, could have referred the Fayeds' acquisition of HoF to the MMC. He had the power to do so under the Fair Trading Act 1973. In exercising his discretion, Lord Young, followed the advice of the Director General of Fair Trading. If a reference had been made and if the MMC had decided that there was an adverse effect to the public interest arising from the merger the Fayeds could have been ordered to divest themselves of their shares in HoF.

By deciding in the second half of 1988 not to refer the case to the MMC, Lord Young deprived himself of the most potent weapon available to him to respond to a manifest breach of the UK regulatory system. At that time he must have been aware of the factors which could lead to the subsequent decisions not to prosecute the Fayeds and not to seek their disqualification as directors. Divestment of their shares in HoF was probably the most likely and effective way of dealing with their conduct.

In the light of the misinformation concerning the financial status of the Fayeds brothers we conclude that Lord Young would have been prudent to exercise his power in late 1988 to refer the Fayeds' acquisition of HoF to the MMC.

We commend the DTI's speed in implementing almost all of the inspec-

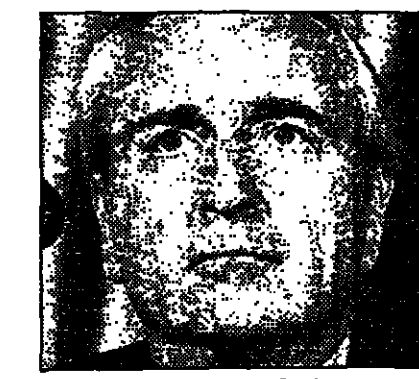


Tebbit: first Secretary of State

tors' recommendations on changes to company law. These go a long way to prevent a repetition of this situation and also demonstrate the willingness of UK regulatory authorities to respond quickly to new threats to the integrity of UK markets.

To some extent the inspectors' report called for steps to be taken by regulatory bodies other than just the DTI. Copies of the report were sent by Lord Young in the summer of 1988 to the Serious Fraud Office, the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Bank of England, the Takeover Panel, the Inland Revenue, the Office of Fair Trading, the MMC and the Metropolitan Police. Copies were also sent, following publication in March 1990, to the Law Society, the Securities and Investments Board, The Securities Association and Fimbra.

The regulatory authorities concerned with the conduct of individuals and firms have submitted some evidence to us but no specific action has yet been taken. The Bank of England is reviewing the authorization of the Fayeds as fit and



Lord Young: prudent to act

proper persons to control Harrods Bank. In view of the fact that the Bank of England received a copy of the inspectors' report in August 1988 we do not understand why this review should take so long.

Mr Ridley expects to liaise with these other regulators and will report to the House on what conclusions they have come to. We accept that this is the proper course of action under the law. The response of these regulatory authorities will be a demonstration of the effectiveness of the UK's mixed system of statutory control and self-regulation. We await the results with interest.

Following publication of the HoF report, the only remaining power available to Mr Ridley to deal with the facts it disclosed was to seek disqualification of the Fayeds as directors under section 8 of the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986. Mr Ridley told the House on 7 March 1990: "I have concluded that it would not be in the public interest to do so."

The Company Directors Disqualifica-

tion Act 1986 gives the Secretary of State power to apply to the court for the disqualification of a director. He can do so if it appears to him expedient in the public interest following an inspectors' report. The court can disqualify a person where "it is satisfied that his conduct in relation to the company makes him unfit to be concerned in the management of a company."

The Secretary of State's reasons seem to stem from his interpretation of the Act that a court would consider only the nature of the current management of a company as grounds for disqualification.

He said in evidence: "Where I am satisfied that the conduct of the director in relation to the company he is managing - I have added those words - makes him unfit to be concerned in the management of a company, that is the criterion."

We believe that this construction should have been tested in court.

We therefore conclude that the question whether the Fayeds should be disqualified as directors should have been put to the courts to decide. There the merits of the case would have been argued in public and decided on the basis of the law. By not applying to the court the Secretary of State blocked off the one remaining means by which some penalty could have been imposed on the Fayeds for their conduct.

The contradictory position adopted by Mr Ridley on the question of disqualification is illustrated by the failure to implement one of the inspectors' recommendations for a change in the law. The inspectors recommended that: "The giving of false evidence to Companies Act inspectors ought to be made in itself a sufficient reason for dis-

qualification of directors under modern legislation."

The DTI response is that such conduct could already be taken into account by the court in determining a person's unfitness. But the court can only take such matters into account if the Secretary of State decides to apply to the court.

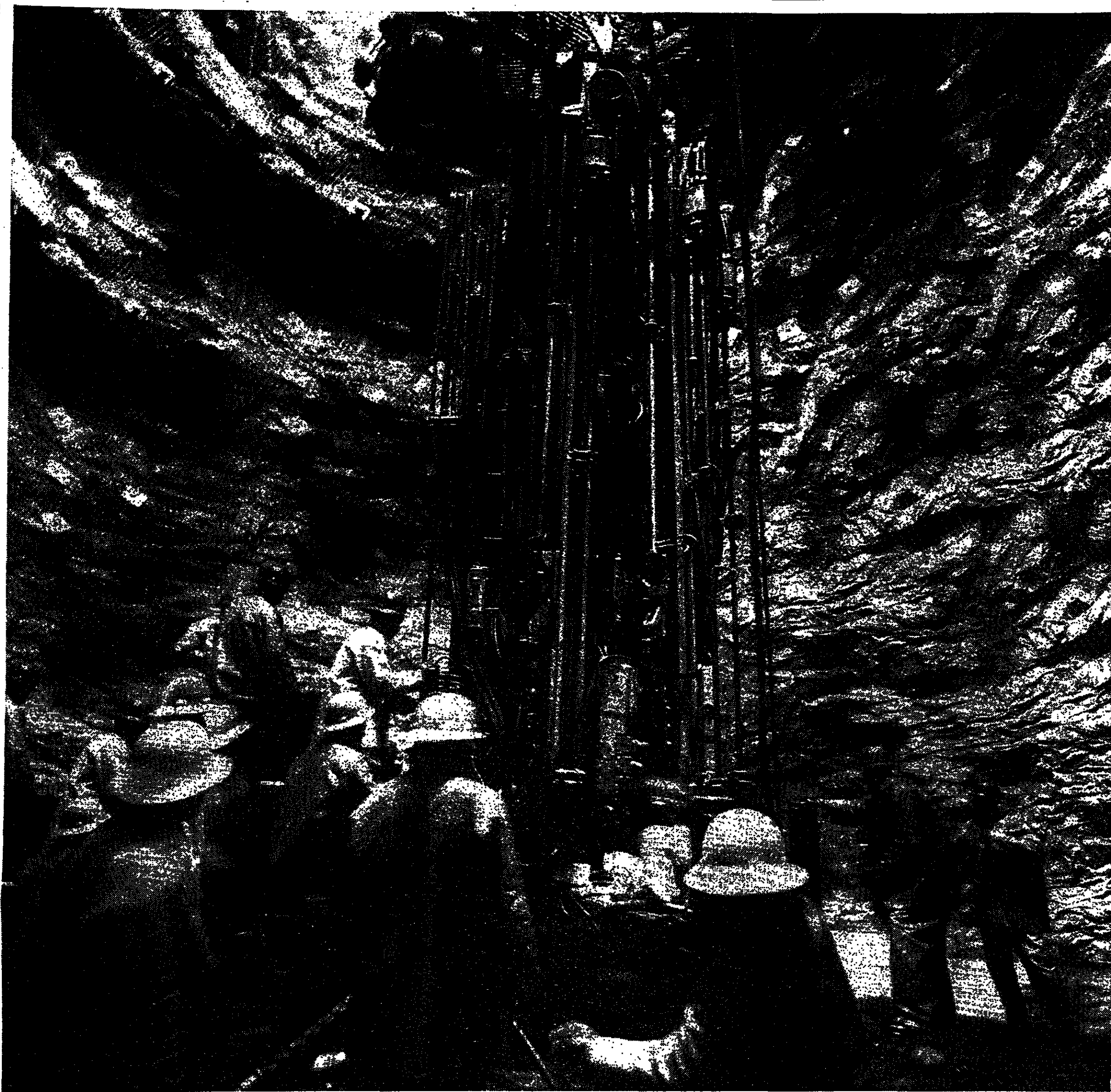
It is highly disingenuous of the DTI's evidence to use this excuse for not seeking an amendment to the law when the Secretary of State has prevented such a course being followed by not referring the case to the court.

We believe that if the company investigation system is to work properly, there should be effective sanctions against those who mislead inspectors. Disqualification as a director is one option, but would not cover all individuals. Mr Ridley did not accept the inspectors' recommendation that punitive sanctions should be made available in the event that false information is furnished to inspectors. The reason given is that section 1 of the Perjury Act 1911 covers such an eventuality. We conclude that the sanctions against misleading inspectors are inadequate.

We recommend that company law be amended to provide that

- (1) If inspectors report that directors have given false information to them, the Secretary of State should automatically apply to the court for their disqualification;
- (2) Knowingly or recklessly misleading inspectors should be made an offence.

We recommend that the Secretary of State should report within two months on the action taken by the various bodies to whom he sent the HoF report.



Drilling is about to commence in this picture of shaft-sinking 1800 metres below the earth at Vaal Reefs' No. 10 shaft.

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ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATION OF SOUTH AFRICA

IF YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT WHAT WE'RE DOING, PLEASE WRITE FOR OUR FACT BOOK TO: AAC, DEPARTMENT NO. T105, PO BOX 43, LONDON EC1P 1AJ. ALLOW 28 DAYS FOR DELIVERY.

WALL STREET

Dow unmoved by new goods data

New York SHARE prices were lower in early trade, with much lower-than-expected April US durable goods orders failing to have an impact on the index.

The Dow Jones industrial average was down 6.88 points at 2,845.35, while declining issues led gains by four to three.

Analysts said that one month's data were not sufficient to show a trend.

● Tokyo - Share prices closed higher, bolstered by Tuesday's overnight record close on Wall Street and the yen's strength against the dollar. The Nikkei

index surged 238.21 to close at 32,176.51.

● Hong Kong - Shares rallied on hopes that the US would renew China's "most favoured nation" status, seen as crucial to Hong Kong's re-export trade. The Hang Seng index closed 57.44 points higher at 3,028.31.

● Singapore - The Straits Times industrial index fell 5.64 points to 1,572.95.

● Sydney - The All-Ordinaries index ended 8.3 points up at 1,473.7.

● Frankfurt - The 30-share SDAX index rose 18.54 points to 1,831.80. (Agencies)

	May 23 close	May 22 close	May 23 close	May 22 close	May 23 close	May 22 close		
Abbott Lab	72.7	72	Enron	55.5	56	Oxy Energy	46	48
Adia	20	20	Exxon	19.5	19.5	Pac Elec	28	28
Alcoa	25.5	25.5	Gen Corp	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa Ind	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa Int	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa Pac	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa S	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa W	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa X	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa Y	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa Z	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa AA	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa AB	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa AC	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa AD	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa AE	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa AF	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa AG	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa AH	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa AI	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa AJ	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa AK	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa AL	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa AM	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa AN	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa AO	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa AP	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa AQ	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa AR	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa AS	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa AT	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa AU	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa AV	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa AW	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa AX	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa AY	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa AZ	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa BA	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa BB	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa BC	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa BD	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa BE	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa BF	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa BG	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa BH	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa BI	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa BJ	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa BK	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa BL	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa BM	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa BN	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa BO	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa BP	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa BQ	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa BR	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa BS	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa BT	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa BU	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa BV	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa BW	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa BX	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa BY	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa BZ	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa CA	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa CB	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa CC	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa CD	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa CE	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa CF	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa CG	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa CH	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa CI	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa CJ	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa CK	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa CL	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa CM	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa CN	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa CO	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa CP	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa CQ	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa CR	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa CS	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa CT	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa CU	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa CV	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa CW	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa CX	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa CY	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa CZ	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa DA	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa DB	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa DC	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa DD	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa DE	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa DF	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa DG	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa DH	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa DI	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa DJ	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa DK	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa DL	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa DM	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa DN	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa DO	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa DP	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa DQ	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa DR	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa DS	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa DT	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa DU	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa DV	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa DW	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa DX	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa DY	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa DZ	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa EA	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa EB	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa EC	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa ED	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa EE	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa EF	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa EG	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa EH	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa EI	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa EJ	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa EK	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa EL	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa EM	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa EN	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa EO	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa EP	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa EQ	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa ER	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa ES	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa ET	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa EU	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa EV	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa EW	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa EX	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa EY	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa EZ	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa FA	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa FB	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa FC	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa FD	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa FE	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa FF	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa FG	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa FH	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa FI	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa FJ	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa FK	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa FL	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	28.5
Alcoa FM	25.5	25.5	Gen Elec	47.7	47.7	Pac Elec	28.5	2

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PROPERTY		1980		1981		1982	
113	78 Allied Lns	92	+0.2	44	45	8	8.7
114	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
115	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
116	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
117	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
118	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
119	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
120	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
121	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
122	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
123	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
124	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
125	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
126	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
127	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
128	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
129	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
130	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
131	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
132	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
133	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
134	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
135	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
136	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
137	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
138	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
139	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
140	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
141	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
142	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
143	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
144	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
145	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
146	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
147	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
148	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
149	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
150	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
151	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
152	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
153	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
154	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
155	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
156	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
157	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
158	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
159	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
160	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
161	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
162	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
163	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
164	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
165	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
166	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
167	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
168	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
169	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
170	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
171	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
172	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
173	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
174	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
175	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
176	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
177	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
178	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
179	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
180	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
181	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
182	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
183	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
184	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
185	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
186	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
187	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
188	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
189	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
190	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
191	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
192	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
193	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
194	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
195	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
196	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
197	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
198	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
199	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7
200	78 Allied Lns	88	75	41	42	8	8.7

150	160	170	180	190	200	210	220	230	240	250	260	270	280	290	300	310	320	330	340	350	360	370	380	390	400	410	420	430	440	450	460	470	480	490	500	510	520	530	540	550	560	570	580	590	600	610	620	630	640	650	660	670	680	690	700	710	720	730	740	750	760	770	780	790	800	810	820	830	840	850	860	870	880	890	900	910	920	930	940	950	960	970	980	990	1000
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MORSE

● MEDICINE: DRUG CONTROVERSY
● SCIENCE: 'MAD COW' RISK

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

A cosmic trail with destruction in its wake

Are we too complacent about the threat of space debris hitting Earth?
Nick Nuttall reports on what some astronomers say will be Armageddon

Over the next few weeks the Taurid stream, a procession of vast cosmic rubble and dust that snakes around the Sun and out towards Jupiter, will swing through Earth's orbit for the first of its bi-annual crossings.

Within the stream are probably thousands of bodies including asteroids, mountain- and island-sized boulders, smaller meteoroids, Encke's Comet and assorted fragments of celestial refuse.

The exact number, size and location of objects, however, remains a mystery and according to Dr Mark Bailey, research Fellow in astronomy at Manchester University, it is likely that for every object which is confirmed, there are nine others that have so far eluded detection.

All that is certain is that the rubble, believed by some astronomers to have been formed by a collision in the asteroid belt of a defunct comet which was captured by the solar system up to 30,000 years ago, will bisect Earth's orbit in late June and again in November.

According to astronomers such as Dr Victor Clube, of Oxford University's Department of Astrophysics, the coming and goings of the Taurid stream should be a source of concern to politicians, planners and anyone who cherishes life on Earth.

A "catastrophist", Dr Clube is one of many astronomers who are convinced that within this celestial procession lie the seeds of mass destruction — an Armageddon of biblical proportions. "The matter requires urgent attention. It is crucial that everyone is woken up to the danger," Dr Clube says.

The chilling scenario envisaged is of Earth and one of the 46,000 mph objects in the Taurid stream colliding during one of the orbital crossings.

Dr Clube says: "It is analogous to a nuclear war with a megatonnage of the same order and all the effects of nuclear war with debris from the impact causing sunlight to be blocked causing a Dark Age or Ice Age."

He has coined the phrase "Multiple Tunguska Bombardment" to describe the worst nightmare which, he believes, will eventually happen. Tunguska refers to a Siberian River near which, in June 1908, a 100 yard body from the Taurid stream ploughed into Earth, exploding and devastating an area 25 miles wide with the impact of a 20-megaton bomb.

Fortunately the encounter occurred in an unpopulated part of the globe but if the impact had been on London it would have devastated the

city, killing millions. The Tunguska event may have been only a chance occurrence. Yet, according to Dr Clube and Dr Bill Napier, of the Royal Observatory in Edinburgh, whose book *Cosmic Winter* is published next month, the history of Earth is littered with subtle evidence that cosmic debris have consistently intervened, often with catastrophic consequences.

One of the most popular theories to explain the sudden demise of the dinosaurs is that, 65 million years ago, a huge asteroid ploughed into the planet, triggering either a nuclear-style winter or huge fires.

This popular theory was given a boost only last week when scientists at the University of Arizona reported the discovery of an apparent 180-mile-wide crash site in the Caribbean of an asteroid six miles wide. They claim this could be linked with the great reptiles' extinction.

Dr Clube ascribes other events including the Old Testament story of Noah and his Ark to a Dark Age linked with colliding heavenly bodies. He



destruction. Part of the blame for this complacency rests with the breakup, in 1845, of Comet Biela without any easily visible effect on Earth.

"This rather relaxed attitude to comets, which has persisted to the present day, helped turn 19th century opinion against a prevailing catastrophist view of evolution," Dr Clube says.

"Indeed, the eventual disintegration of Comet Biela into dust made it no longer out of place for biologists and geologists to explain evolution in processes that were non-violent and slow-acting."

"In short, it became fash-

ionable to assume that the world is safe when in fact multiple Tunguska bombardments, releasing around five megatons — the equivalent of a full-scale nuclear war — may happen at intervals of about 1,500 years, producing a Dark Age," he says. "To suggest the planet is safe is absurd."

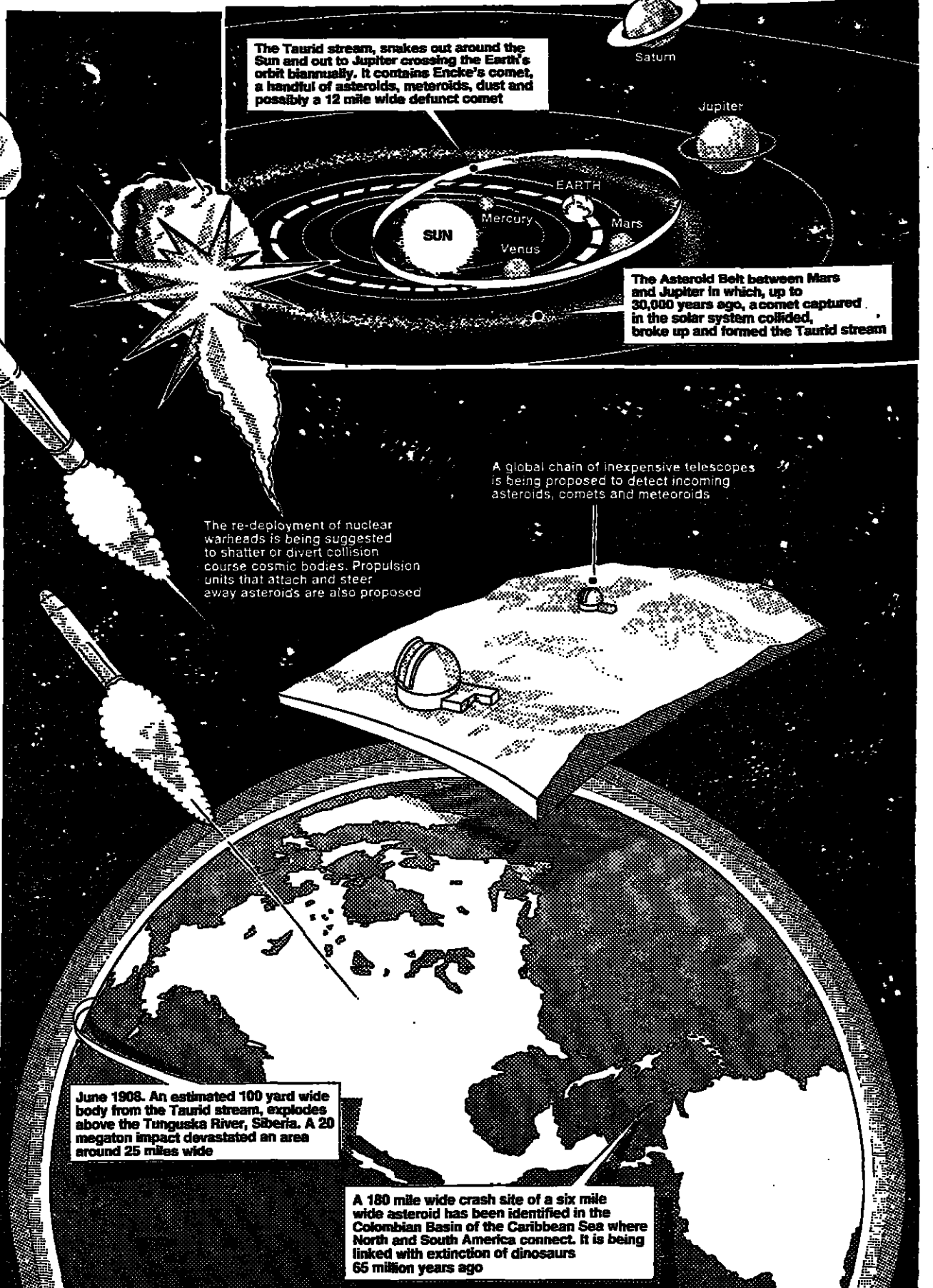
The Oxford astronomer is not alone in his views. Similar concerns were echoed last week by the respected American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA).

The institute is calling for studies aimed at defending the Earth from asteroid attack, including the possible redeployment of nuclear weapons to shatter incoming celestial bodies.

The call comes in the wake of thawing East-West relations and what is being claimed as a recent, potentially disastrous near-collision.

Last year, 1989 FC, a cosmic boulder bigger than an aircraft carrier, passed within 400,000 miles of Earth, a mere whisker in astronomical terms, before being noticed by astronomers.

"Such an object could cause



Averting destruction?: some scientists believe missiles could be used to break up the asteroids before they reach Earth

"Such an object could cause a disaster of unprecedented proportions if it struck"

also believes that climatic changes, including fears of present global warming, may have a cosmic component.

There is sufficient evidence, he says, to indicate that collisions happen within centuries and millenniums rather than millions and billions of years, with multiple encounters more likely than sceptics claim.

Dr Clube emphasizes that predicting when a bombardment may occur is impossible without more scientific evaluation of the Taurid stream.

"We are probably a little safer at the moment because the intersecting orbits are far away. But we are on the inward run and in 500 years we will start getting close again," he says.

According to Dr Clube, the last time that the stream was closest within Earth's orbit was in the first millennium BC, from about 500 BC up to 0 AD, the time of Christ.

It is vital to overcome complacency about the threat from cosmic debris, he says. This complacency is relatively new, as pagan and ancient civilisations such as the Babylonians were firm believers in the threat of cosmic

Weighing up the odds on beef

Is not the "negligible" risk to humans from "mad cow" disease too great a risk to take?



Taking precautions: the burning carcasses of cows infected with the disease

"MAD cow" disease is on the rampage and Britain is once again gripped by a public health disaster. Or perhaps not: the experts disagree — heatedly.

How much is the risk in eating beef? The answer to that question has been obscured by confusion between two types of risk. One is a quantifiable risk, the other is an unknown risk that is estimated by extrapolation or analogy.

There is an important difference between a one in a million chance of a human catching a disease and a one in a million chance that a disease is readily transmissible to humans.

In the first type of risk, a steady but small stream of people will catch the disease. In the second, almost certainly nobody will catch it, but there is a tiny chance that large numbers of people will.

The risks of contracting bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) from beef tend to be presented as if they are known, and small. But it would be more accurate to consider them unknown, and this is where the difficulties lie.

To understand the difference, consider scrapie, a disease said to be similar to BSE that affects sheep, and which has a lot in common with a rare but deadly human disease, Creutzfeldt-Jakob's disease.

Scrapie has long been widespread among British sheep and large numbers of infected sheep make their way to the

table. The incidence of Creutzfeldt-Jakob's disease is about 30 cases per year. There is no known link between the two diseases, but the possibility has not been ruled out. Both have been around long enough for it to be clear that the risk posed by eating infected sheep is either zero or very small.

BSE is different. It is believed — though unproven — that the BSE outbreak was caused by cattle eating sheep offal which was contaminated with scrapie.

It is therefore believed, but equally unproven, that the two diseases closely resemble each other. If this is true, then, even if BSE could be transmitted to humans, it would be safe to eat beef.

It might be best to avoid products made from brain, meat around the spinal cord, and other offal, because these are the tissues where the disease appears to concentrate, but even there the risk would be minor. This presumed analogy

between scrapie and BSE lies behind public statements that eating beef is "known" to be safe.

Unfortunately, the analogy might be misleading. BSE is a new disease with a long incubation period and little research on it has yet been completed.

The organism that causes BSE might, for instance, be a mutated form of the one that causes scrapie; if so, it need not behave in the same way. Even if it is the same organism, its behaviour in cows might differ from that in sheep.

Scrapie is in the category of being a one-in-many-millions chance of a human catching a disease. We know that the risk posed by scrapie is "negligible" because we have been eating infected meat for decades and few people, if any, have suffered as a result. BSE is in the second.

Because BSE has a lot in common with scrapie, many scientists are prepared to bet heavy odds that BSE also poses a "negligible" risk to health.

But they do not know that it is negligible. The difference is crucial: if these scientists are wrong, there could be an epidemic among humans.

There is no way around this impasse except to find out what the risk really is. This requires a substantial research effort and cannot be done quickly. In the meantime, common sense suggests that we should err on the side of caution.

IAN STEWART

● The author is senior lecturer in mathematics at the University of Warwick and the author of *Does God Play Dice?*

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

A study more than skin deep

CHRIS HARRIS



Shedding light: technician Pamela Elliott, Dr Richard Camp and Dr John Hawk, treating patient Nicola Blanks in the hospital's photobiology unit

While not promising the elixir of youth, research into compounds that remove wrinkles from ageing skin is generating optimism at an international gathering of experts in London this week for Clinical Dermatology in the Year 2000.

More importantly, the conference has been told of important inroads into discovering the causes of inflammation and how it progresses into skin disorders. The findings also cover areas ranging from photobiology to the ageing process.

As we become healthier, and live longer, ageing will demand more medical attention. Skin disorders make up at least 10 per cent of a general practitioner's consultations. The findings mean it may be possible to design new drugs to combat skin disease in the same revolutionary way that has transformed the treatment of ulcers, blood pressure and heart disease.

How and why skin inflames remains a mystery to doctors. Pearce Wright reports on findings which may give answers

Although they have not discovered the trigger for inflammation, they are closer to understanding the chain of events it produces. Dr Richard Camp heads a research group at the Institute of Dermatology at St Thomas's Hospital, London which has isolated the substance within skin cells which may explain why the normally helpful protective cells, leucocytes, invade healthy cells and cause irritations or even destroy them.

The substance, leukotriene B₄, attracts the protective cells, starting an abnormal chain of events. Scientists believe this finding now provides a clear biological target at which to aim new drugs.

Although millions of pounds are spent each year on prescriptions or over-the-counter drugs for reducing inflammation, the reason why

they work is not fully understood. Inflammation plays an essential role in the body's defence against infection and in its repair of injury. Inflammation occurs because blood vessels in the underlying layer of the skin dilate, increasing the leakage of blood plasma into the surrounding tissue.

The blood serum carries a variety of cells and molecules that attack infection and remove and repair damaged tissue, resulting in the outward signs of heat, redness and swelling.

Persistent accumulation of inflammatory cells can cause distress and even death in cases of lung and kidney disease and arthritis.

In allergic skin reactions and disorders such as psoriasis

— the illness that received widespread recognition through the television series *The Singing Detective* — the processes of inflammation are out of control.

Scientists are close to identifying some of the substances which may trigger the abnormal process, during which leucocytes, a usually helpful type of white blood cell, invade healthy skin cells.

Advances in molecular biology point to a large number of substances which could stimulate the inflammatory process, but Dr Camp says histamine, with its ability to cause severe allergies, is the only one that has been clearly identified.

Some skin disorders respond to treatment with doses of ultraviolet light. But there are also skin diseases that are induced or aggravated by light. In research at St Thomas's, the skin's sensitivity is

used in volunteers to create a patch of inflammation, smaller than a postage stamp, in order to explore varieties of biochemical reactions.

Dr John Hawk, a consultant at St Thomas's, is also interested in photobiology because of the ageing effects of ultraviolet radiation in sunlight. He is particularly optimistic about the progress of a compound called retinoic acid, derived from vitamin A, for reducing wrinkles. The substance has been in use for more than 25 years to treat severe cases of acne.

The other possibilities came from a chance observation by Dr Albert Kligman, of the University of Pennsylvania, of benefits to the skin in older patients. Recent trials have confirmed the observations. Changes in the thickness of the skin and other alterations have been measured, but the mechanism by which retinoic acid produces cosmetic changes and how long the changes might last remains unclear.

Pay it with the plastic



ADVANCES in colour reproduction technology are causing concern that the counterfeiting of banknotes will become far easier.

Faced also with a short lifespan for paper money, several countries have looked at the possibility of using wafer-thin plastic to provide a virtually uncopyable and indestructible banknote. The Reserve Bank of Australia has decided that paper currency should be abolished. Australia issued the world's first plastic A\$10 note in 1988 as part of its Bicentennial celebrations. Describing the plastic version as cleaner, more durable and harder to counterfeit, the Reserve Bank has decided to introduce a plastic A\$5 note in September, with other denominations becoming plastic over the next three years.

Vaccinate crops

A VACCINE that can protect plants against pests and reduce reliance on pesticides has been developed. Genetically engineered bacteria called endophytes, which carry a naturally occurring protein to kill insects, are inserted into a plant's seeds. The endophytes spread the protein through the growing plant. The vaccine's developer, Peter Carlson, who founded a company called Crop Genetics in Maryland, has just completed two years of field tests on corn that had been vaccinated against the

Waste not...

European corn borer. He said the vaccine had proved to be safe, and the tests had shown that the genetically engineered endophytes did not spread appreciably into neighbouring plants.

THE recycling of discarded items produces £18 billion worth of useful commodities weighing more than 500 million tons, according to the Bureau International de la Recupération, which last week in Singapore held a conference that attracted representatives of recycling organizations from more than 40 countries. "Turning scrap iron into steel is two and a half times cheaper than using iron ore to make steel," said Anthony Bird, president of the bureau's scrap iron and steel division.

Mental picture

PSYCHIATRISTS and psychologists who were shown home movies of a selection of children were usually able to spot those who developed schizophrenia as adults. The experiment supported the view that the disease followed an early brain disorder, Elaine Walker, psychology professor of Emory University in Atlanta, said. Thirteen mental health professionals were shown five films of children aged under five and asked which one was later diagnosed as schizophrenic. Their performance was much better than mere chance, Professor Walker said, which suggested that they were able to spot clues such as delayed develop-

ment of motor skills, and unexpected emotional responses.

Super brains

ISRAELI is investigating the possibility of buying a powerful "supercomputer" from West Germany after a two-year licensing delay in trying to buy one from the American company Cray Research. Sales of both Cray and certain powerful IBM machines to Israel, Brazil and India have been stalled by the American government, which is concerned that they may be used to develop nuclear weapons. Israel cannot turn to the other main source of supercomputers, Japan, because of an agreement between America and Japan over such exports.

Up and away

THE launch of satellites by Europe's Ariane rocket will resume by late July or August, when it will put two satellites into orbit — one for French television and the other to handle West German telecommunications. Ariane-space suspended its launch programme after the explosion, over the Atlantic in February, of a rocket that was putting two Japanese satellites into orbit. Ariane-space has 38 launch contracts worth more than £1.5 billion. Ariane remains one of the two most reliable commercial conventional launchers in the world and is a model for commercial launching systems, said Frederic d'Allest, the Ariane-space president. MATTHEW MAY

Software secret is out

MILLIONS of personal computer owners are likely to benefit after one of the worst-kept secrets in the computer industry was finally made public on Tuesday.

After years of development, the giant software firm Microsoft has announced a new software program designed to give IBM-compatible personal computers the same easy-to-use features that made the Apple Macintosh so popular.

Although the company has already produced two other attempts at a similar program, it is only with this third version that computer experts

believe it has successfully replaced the need for giving text-based and often technical commands on many standard PCs with more friendly graphics-based commands that can be controlled with a mouse pointing device as well as with a keyboard.

The new £100 program, Windows 3.0, has been available for almost a year to other software developers, who are expected to base thousands of other programs on it.

Millions of computers using a range of microprocessors, from the 286 chip to the 486 chip, will be able to use it though a hard disc; at least one

megabyte of memory is required.

The program gives a new lease of life to the most widely used operating system for personal computers. It is also likely to make IBM's attempt to establish a new standard for PCs using the OS/2 operating system more difficult.

Such are the financial gains to be made from such a program that it is surrounded with litigation. In 1988, Apple filed a lawsuit, which is still pending, against Microsoft, claiming that earlier versions of the Windows program had infringed Apple patents.

MATTHEW MAY

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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The COSINE Project Management Unit (CPMU) is being set up by RARE (Réseau Associé pour la Recherche Européenne) to initiate, maintain and monitor the many international projects which make up the EUREKA Project COSINE (Cooperation for OSI Networking in Europe) involving 20 European governments and the Commission of the European Communities. The project aims at creating a common operational OSI infrastructure for the European Research Community. Its mandate is for a 3 year period.

In this context the CPMU has the following vacancies for suitably qualified staff.

DIRECTOR (ref. CPMU recruitment 1)

Project Development Manager (ref. CPMU recruitment 2)

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Head of Administration (ref. CPMU recruitment 5)

Nature of duties/experience required

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The other posts will cover a wide range of tasks in connection with the development, marketing and administration of COSINE projects, services and products on an international market from both a technical and financial standpoint.

Successful candidates, who must be nationals of one of the COSINE member countries, will be able to demonstrate a varying range of financial, project management, administrative and technical skills and experience in the area of OSI networking.

Further information concerning the precise nature of duties can be obtained from the RARE Secretariat. The working language is English but candidates should have a good knowledge of at least one other European language.

Salaries will be commensurate with the level of duties and experience and assistance will be given in relocating to Amsterdam, which is foreseen as the future headquarters of the CPMU.

If you find the prospect exciting and would like to be considered for any of these positions, please send your full Curriculum Vitae, preferably in English, in complete confidence, quoting the appropriate reference by 22 June 1990 to:

(For ref. CPMU recruitment 1)
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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Superconductors promised a fantastic future. What went wrong? Philip Ball investigates

Four years ago, the discovery of a new kind of superconductor — a material that conducts electricity without resistance — led to visions of magnetically levitating trains, loss-free power cables and high-speed computers.

Now that the initial euphoria has worn off, this bright technological future still seems disappointingly remote.

But a new development reported in today's *Nature* magazine by superconductor pioneer Dr Paul Chu and his team from the University of Houston, Texas, says that may be another step along the road.

Since the heady days of 1986, when Zurich-based Dr Georg Bednorz and Dr Alex Müller stumbled across the first "high-temperature" superconductor, researchers have come to realize that putting the new materials to use is more difficult than they had expected.

The snag is that if a superconductor is forced to carry an electric current of more than a certain critical strength, it loses its superconductivity. In all the new materials, this critical current is too small for most of the intended applications.

Whereas two or three years ago researchers would race one another to find new materials that would superconduct at ever higher temperatures, they are now having to try to coax better current-carrying performance from the materials they already know. Only then will these materials be ready to graduate from laboratory curiosities to commercial propositions.

Superconductors themselves are by no means new. As far back as 1911, Dr Heike Kamerlingh-Onnes, a Dutch physicist, noticed that mercury lost all electrical resistance when cooled in liquid helium to about minus 269°C (within four degrees of absolute zero).

Many other metals were later found to superconduct, but at temperatures so low that the property could not be put to much use: the need for cumbersome and expensive cooling equipment relegated superconductivity to curiosity status.

For years, superconducting temperatures stayed no higher than minus 250°C, and it gradually became part of the lore of the trade that getting materials to superconduct above this temperature would never be possible.

Undeterred, and taking their lead from the discovery of a ceramic material — a mixture of bismuth, barium, lead and oxygen — that became superconducting at minus 261°C, Dr Bednorz and Dr

Finding the magic mix



Super effort: Dr Paul Chu has made another breakthrough

Müller started experimenting with other ceramics. They hit the jackpot with a brew of lanthanum, barium, calcium and copper oxides, which broke the minus 250°C barrier by about seven degrees and earned them a Nobel Prize.

Seldom has a scientific discovery been seized upon so avidly. Laboratories around the world were at once cooking up their own recipes, and it was only a matter of months before Dr Chu's group announced that the compound yttrium barium copper oxide had a superconducting "transition" temperature above the boiling point of nitrogen — minus 196°C.

This was a real breakthrough, because it meant that liquid nitrogen — which is cheap, abundant and relatively easy to handle

'The marvels anticipated in 1986 are still a long way off realization'

body could achieve transition temperatures of more than about minus 183°C.

Dr Hiroshi Maeda and his team in Japan broke the deadlock, achieving higher temperatures with a ceramic containing the element bismuth.

Hot on their heels, a team from the University of Arkansas managed to get transition at about minus 153°C in a ceramic containing thallium, a metal used in rat poison. This has not been bettered in more than two years.

But high-transition temperatures are not the only consideration. First, one has to be able to form the superconductors into wires and other useful shapes. This is easy with metals, but the ceramic superconductors are hard and brittle, so that new technologies have had to be developed to process them.

Then there is the problem of the critical current, which hinges on the small-scale structure of the materials. Under the microscope, they are seen to be conglomerates of tiny crystalline grains packed together.

The boundaries between the grains create so-called "weak links" that reduce the critical current. Also, the arrangement of atomic layers in different crystal grains is haphazard: the layers in one grain do not necessarily line up with those in surrounding grains.

Again, this lowers the critical current. Dr Chu's team has come up with a new variation on a technique that gets round some of these problems. By carefully controlling rapid heating and cooling of the ceramic sample, it can be persuaded to crystallize so that the atomic layers in different grains line up with one another, and the crystal grains are tightly packed with good contacts between them.

The researchers have adapted this idea into a means of making long bars of the high-critical-current material. They pass the "raw" ceramic through a heated zone, to be transformed into the new, improved version as it emerges on the other side.

Although the researchers have as yet succeeded in making bars only a few centimetres long, it should be possible in time to make strips and wires of any length by pulling them continuously through the heater.

These are all steps in the right direction, but the technological marvels anticipated in 1986 are still a long way off realization. Will high-temperature superconductors ever fulfil their promise? Some say that until we understand how they work, we will never get much further; but that is a mystery that shows few signs of yielding even to the most brilliant minds.

Others take the more pragmatic line that we now know which are the most promising materials and that, like Dr Chu's group, we should turn our efforts to getting the best from them.

But as medieval alchemists once dreamed of the philosophers' stone, some laboratories surely still harbour a secret dream that they will one day reach that elusive goal — the room-temperature superconductor.

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Hunt for the coy krill

One of the planet's most important food sources is proving an elusive quarry for worried researchers

WHAT is the connection between the shrimp-like animals krill and "stealth" bombers? The answer, according to new British research, is that both are hard to detect using long-range echo-sounding methods.

The coyness of krill lies at the heart of a debate about the effects of fisheries on the fragile Antarctic ecology. Animals from seabirds to whales depend on krill as a food source.

"Krill are the keystone of the whole ecology of the Antarctic," says Dr David Simmonds, of the Marine Resources Research Unit at Portsmouth Polytechnic.

Fishing fleets, overwhelmingly from the Soviet Union, have moved in to share the bounty, and take nearly half a million tonnes every year. The size of the krill population is important for resource management as well as conservation.

The problem is that although the population is likely to be enormous, it is distributed patchily. So it is almost impossible to get a good overall idea of how much krill there is.

Most researchers agree that the oceans produce several hundred million tonnes of krill every year. Dr John Simmonds, of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland, in Aberdeen, sums up the difficulties involved: "It would be like giving you a wheelbarrow and a trowel and telling you to work out how many worms there are in London."

Previous estimates have been far too low, according to Inigo Everson, of the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) in Cambridge and

colleagues, reporting today in *Nature*.

Acoustic soundings of Antarctic krill shoals, or swarms, have come up with abundance figures a tenth of those implied by the activities of the animals that feed on them. Do whales, seals and seabirds know something that researchers have missed, or is there something amiss with the krill census itself?

The BAS group favours the second option. Using krill potted in cages anchored off Suisun Harbour, South Georgia — near some of the most fruitful krill fishing areas in the world — the researchers tested how well krill reflected sound waves.

The idea was to find out whether the echo-sounding results matched what the researchers knew to be the number of krill in the cages. They discovered that krill are much "softer" or stealthier than previously thought — they return echoes rather weakly, giving a misleading impression of their numbers.

This seems the solution to a nagging problem, but should not be the cue for more commercial exploitation. Krill tend to be concentrated in particular places, and the haul fluctuates wildly. Although the quantities taken

by fishing fleets are negligible, the effects could be disastrous in areas of the Antarctic — such as South Georgia, the South Orkneys and the Antarctic Peninsula — that support large populations of krill-dependent animals.

According to Dr John Beddington, of the Centre for Environmental Technology at Imperial College, London, the Soviet krill catch runs at 420,000 tonnes a year — 90 per cent of the world harvest.

The krill ends up sold as tinned "Antarctic plankton" or minced and used in fish meal for chicken food. The Soviet fleet's original quarry was fin fish, but stocks have plummeted: fishing for krill has become the fleet's *raison d'être*.

Most of the remaining 80,000 tonnes ends up in Japan, either as aquarium food, a substitute for canned shrimp or, heavily disguised, in bar snacks.

"Apparently I have been eating krill with my beer for years and didn't know it," Dr David Swinbanks, a marine biologist and *Nature's* Tokyo correspondent, says. "They serve it up like we would peanuts in the pub — very crunchy."

Japanese fish farmers feed krill to their sea bream: this transforms the normally unexciting black fish into a marketable shade of red.

But the Japanese are reluctant to expand their krill fleet further for fear of lowering krill's market value: to do so would quickly make the whole fishery uneconomic, given the huge distances involved.

HENRY GEE

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Licence to krill: the fragile Antarctic ecology is dependant on these tiny, shrimp-like creatures

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Court of Appeal

Benefit of better stepmother disregarded

Stanley v Saddique
Before Lord Justice Purchas,
Lord Justice Ralph Gibson and
Sir David Croom-Johnson
[Judgment May 18]

The benefit accruing to a minor, whose unreliable mother was killed in a road accident caused by the negligence of the defendant, through his father's marriage to a more reliable woman who provided a higher standard of motherly services, was a benefit which should be disregarded under section 4 of the Fatal Accidents Act 1976, as amended by section 3(1) of the Administration of Justice Act 1982.

It could not be said that there was no loss of dependency to the minor. However, the deceased mother's shortcomings as a mother which should be taken into account when calculating the damages for loss of dependency.

The Court of Appeal stated allowing an appeal by the defendant, Mohammed Saddique, from a decision of Mr Justice Morland who on July 13, 1989 awarded damages of £24,500 to the plaintiff minor, David Dean Stanley, suing by his father and next friend, David John Stanley, who was not married to his deceased mother, Elaine Stallard.

Mr Richard Clegg, QC and Mr Nicholas Worsley for the defendant; Mr Piers Ashworth, QC and Mr Anthony Hughes, QC for the plaintiff minor.

LORD JUSTICE PURCHAS said the basis of the claim was the minor's dependency on his mother who was then married to a Frederick Stallard by whom she had three children.

In 1982 the mother began an association with the minor's

father who was divorced. That summer she left her children and went to Blackpool with the minor's father.

In December 1983 the minor was born. At the time of the mother's death on March 24, 1984 the father looked after the minor.

In June 1984 the father met a woman called Tracy and they married in November 1984 after which they moved into Tracy's flat. Tracy had a daughter of her own and a son was subsequently born to the father and Tracy in 1985.

The judge found that after his marriage to Tracy the father settled down and was a good father to the minor. He also found that Tracy was providing excellent motherly services to the minor which were of a higher quality than could reasonably be expected to have been provided by the minor's mother.

The judge found that the motherly services likely to have been provided by the mother would have been of an inferior quality and lacking in continuity and that some indication of her reliability as a mother was the fact that she left her three young children, one handicapped and one extremely young, for an irresponsible relationship with the minor's father in Blackpool.

Based on those findings the first contention of the defendant was that as the minor was better off in the home provided by his father and Tracy than he would ever have been with his mother there was no loss of dependency and, therefore, no damages to be awarded under the Act.

The judge did not accept that contention but calculated a loss

of dependency adopting the multiplier/multiplier approach: see *Spillie v Bunney* [1988] 1 WLR 847.

The judge concluded that the benefit accruing from the home consisting of the father, Tracy and their children was excluded by section 4 of the 1976 Act, as amended. That was the first ground of appeal: the problem was one of construction.

The problem was to decide whether in construing section 4 there was any justification for construing the words "benefits which have accrued or will or may accrue to any person from his estate or otherwise as a result of his death" as being restricted or whether they should be given the full ambit of the word "otherwise".

Mr Clegg suggested that the exclusion should be restricted to direct pecuniary benefits. However, if that course was taken the word "otherwise" would not be sufficiently wide to restrain the various rights which had been progressively introduced since the Fatal Accidents (Damages) Act 1908 culminating in sections 1 to 4 of the 1976 Act which were wholly replaced by section 3(1) of the 1982 Act.

As a result of the passage of the 1982 Act none of the pre-existing statutory exemptions from the deductions of benefits from fatal accidents Acts damages survived unless it was through the medium of the word "otherwise".

It seemed inconceivable that Parliament would have effected a wholesale repeal of all long-standing previous statutory exemptions from the deduction of benefits by a side-wind of that sort.

In his Lordship's judgment, the preferable construction was that by section 4 Parliament intended to further the departure from ordinary common law assessment of damages for personal injuries by the artificial concept which had for many decades been the basis of damages recoverable under the fatal accidents Acts.

The judge was correct in his conclusion that the benefits accruing to the minor as a result of his absorption into the family unit consisting of his father and stepmother and siblings should be wholly disregarded in assessing damages.

The defendants argued that in any event the judge failed properly to take into account his own findings of fact as to the prospects of any substantial benefit which would have been enjoyed by the minor had his mother not died. That really was an attack either on the multiplier or the multiplier in the computation made by the judge based on *Spillie v Bunney*.

Mr Clegg submitted that in assessing the value of the mother's services at £3,000 a year discounted against the smaller reliance placed on her by the minor as he grew older, the judge failed in taking an overall multiplier of 12 years to represent his age up to 18 to make any proper discount for the real possibility that the mother might, as a result of her own shortcomings, not be available through the full period of 12 years.

He relied on the mother's record in relation to her earlier children and the findings of the judge that the minor's prospects of enjoying any continuing or valuable support from his mother were bleak.

That, Mr Clegg submitted, called for a far more substantial discount either by reducing the multiplier or, in his Lordship's judgment, more appropriately, by the multiplier before reaching the figure which the judge reached of £24,000.

In the end, the assessment of the damages for loss of dependency, as apart from that element of the dependency which could be related to financial support, was a jury question.

His Lordship had no doubt that the judge's computation was plainly too high and was reached on a wrong principle in as much as it omitted to make a proper discount for the real possibility that the mother would not have stayed with the family, and that, therefore, the finding could not be upheld on appeal.

The duty of the court was to arrive at a figure which a jury might well have awarded had it taken into account all the circumstances. Such was the task steadily pursued by the judge. The multiplier/multiplier approach was inappropriate.

In carrying out an assessment on a jury award basis, his Lordship reached a figure of £10,000 for loss of services. This had to be added to the figure of £5,000 for loss of financial support which the judge assessed and which could not be disturbed on appeal. The total award should therefore be £15,000.

Lord Justice Ralph Gibson delivered a concurring judgment and Sir David Croom-Johnson agreed.

Solicitors: Sharpe Pritchard for Howarth, Birmingham; Parkinson Wright, Worcester.

First estate agent entitled to his commission

Peter Yates & Co v Bullock and Another
Before Lord Justice Nourse and Mr Justice Ward
[Judgment May 16]

An estate agent was entitled to receive his commission from a vendor for the introduction of a purchaser if he was the effective cause of the sale taking place. The completion of the sale transactions by another agent subsequently instructed by the vendor to purchase, introduced by the original agent, did not prevent that original agent from receiving payment.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal by the plaintiffs, Peter Yates & Co, a firm of estate agents, from the judgment of Judge Sellers in Blackpool County Court in June 1989 dismissing their claim for payment of commission by the defendant, the executors of Mr Ernest Bullock. The defendants were refused leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

Mr Cecil Henriques for the plaintiffs; Mr John Woodward for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that in 1987 the plaintiffs received oral instructions from Mr Bullock to sell the Westmoreland Hotel, Queens Promenade, Blackpool.

The agreement was evidenced by a letter from the plaintiffs to Mr Bullock thanking him for his "most favoured instructions to act as agents in offering your property for sale at the sum of £150,000". Commission was agreed at one and a half per cent. The letter was signed by Mr Bullock and showed the property to a number of persons, including Mr and Mrs Duxbury. On three further occasions they had visited the property before making an offer worth just under £123,000.

Following advice from the plaintiffs to hold out for more, Mr Bullock had refused the offer. Clearly, however, between

February and April 1987 the Duxburys had been very interested prospective purchasers of the hotel, their interest having been nourished by the plaintiffs.

On April 24, Mr Bullock had instructed another firm of agents, Kays of Blackpool, giving them sole selling rights. Mr Bullock did not terminate the plaintiffs' agency.

Thereafter Kays negotiated the sale to Mr and Mrs Duxbury together with a Mrs Hume for £135,000, completion taking place on July 8, 1987. On July 10 Mr Bullock paid commission to Kays of £2,328. He declined to pay commission to the plaintiffs who issued a writ.

Dismissing the plaintiffs' claim, the judge having found that Kays negotiated the sale, stated that "although the plaintiffs initially introduced the purchasers to the property and they considered the purchase carefully, they were unable to raise the necessary finance. They then roped in Mrs Hume and the purchase was made by the three people."

There was no evidence that the plaintiffs knew anything of the existence of Mrs Hume who seemed vital to the purchase made through the other agents... the plaintiffs were not the effective cause of the sale... clearly Mrs Hume was essential to the purchase. The plaintiffs did not introduce her to the property and therefore were not the effective cause of the sale.

It was agreed that the question of the plaintiffs' entitlement to commission depended on whether they were or were not the effective cause of the sale. The recent authority on that question was *John D. Wood & Co v Dantata* (1987) 2 EG L.R. 231, applied by Mr Justice Garland in *Chesterfield & Co v Zahid* (The Times February 13, 1989).

In the *Dantata* judgment that his Lordship said that he had himself given he had stated:

"What you are looking for is the leading or bringing in of the purchaser to that transaction. That makes it clear that first acquaintance is not paramount and it explains why the test is expressed by reference to the effective cause of the transaction."

The defendants relied on that passage, contending that the admitted introduction of the Duxburys to the property was not paramount or conclusive and that as the plaintiffs had not introduced Mrs Hume and after April 24 had played no effective part at all, the judge was right to conclude as he had.

His Lordship said that although the introduction of the Duxburys by the plaintiffs was not decisive, the judge's conclusion could not be upheld.

Each such case depended on its facts and any different combination of facts might be available to show which of two firms of agents was the effective cause of a sale. The valid question was that asked by Mr Henriques: what would the position have been if Kays had never come into the matter?

Had the Duxburys and Mrs Hume gone personally to Mr Bullock and said that they were willing and able to put up £135,000, clearly the plaintiffs, who had done a lot of spade work, would have been entitled to commission.

The question then to be asked was whether the appearance of Kays on the scene had broken the chain of causation because of what they had done as regards the eventual purchase. There was no evidence of any effective part by Kays beyond their being the channel for the successful offer: the chain of causation had not been broken by them.

Mr Justice Garland gave a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Edwin Cole for Ashcroft Whiteside, Blackpool; Edwin Cole for Roland Robinson & Fentons, Blackpool.

Delay reflected in child's damages award for lost mother

Corbett v Barking, Havering and Brentwood Health Authority
Before Lord Justice Purchas, Lord Justice Ralph Gibson and Lord Justice Farquharson
[Judgment May 18]

Where on a claim for damages by an infant dependant under the Fatal Accidents Act 1976 for the loss of the support of his mother there was a long delay before an award was made, the court was entitled to take account of the delay and to allow some adjustment for it when fixing the multiplier as at the date of death.

The Court of Appeal by a majority (Lord Justice Ralph Gibson dissenting) so stated allowing an appeal on that issue by the infant plaintiff, Richard Brian Corbett, suing by his father and next friend, Brendan Desmond Corbett, from the decision of Judge Hayman sitting as a deputy High Court judge on June 5, 1989. The defendants were granted leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

The plaintiff's claim was against the defendants, Barking, Havering and Brentwood Health Authority, in negligence for causing the death of his mother while giving birth to him. Liability was disputed until just before the trial when it was admitted and the trial proceeded on the question of damages. At the date of the trial the plaintiff was eleven and a half years old.

Mr Harvey McGregor, QC and Mr Roderick Doggett for the plaintiff; Mr Johnathan Playford, QC and Mr Terence Coghlan for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE PURCHAS said that the judge considered that he was bound by authority to take as the overall period for dependency 18 years from the date. Applying normal discounts he reached a multiplier of 12 years.

At the date of the trial there was only 0.5 years to run before the full period of the multiplier expired, if the figure was to be assessed not only with the date of death as datum point but with the factors from which the multiplier was to be calculated assumed to be those which would be known to the court were the trial to have taken place on that date.

Considering himself bound by the authority of the House of Lords in *Cookson v Knowles* (1979) AC 556, the judge took a multiplier of 0.5 in assessing post-trial damages.

The use of the multiplier approach for the capitalization of future damages to be compensated by a once-for-all lump sum was an adequate and well known instrument, but it had to be used appropriately.

In every assessment of future damages to be compensated by an immediate payment there were at least five essential elements:

1 The likelihood of the provider of the support continuing to exist.
2 The likelihood of the dependant being alive to benefit from that support.
3 The possibility of the providing capacity of the provider being affected by the changes and chances of life either in a positive or negative manner.

4 The possibility of the needs of the dependant being altered by the changes and chances of life, again in a positive or negative way.
5 An actuarial discount to compensate (i) for immediate receipt of compensatory damages in advance of the date when the loss would in fact have been incurred, and (ii) that the capital should be exhausted at the end of the period of dependency.

As a general rule to arrive at the multiplier it was necessary:

(a) To consider the combined effects of (1) and (2) above to arrive at the number of years during which the provision of the support was likely to be available if needed by the dependant.
(b) To consider the combined effects of (2) and (4) to arrive at the number of years during which the dependant was likely to need the support.

(c) To apply (5) to the lesser of (a) and (b) above, with an added but usually minor discount to take account of an outside chance that the choice between (a) and (b) might in the event prove to be wrong.

The issue at the heart of the appeal was at what date should the known facts be taken when calculating elements (1) to (4) above and when choosing the discount in (5).

The judge was in error in considering that he was bound by *Cookson v Knowles* and *Graham v Dodds* (1983) 1 WLR 808 to take a multiplier of 12 as the conventional figure. It was that reason that his Lordship disagreed with Lord Justice Ralph Gibson that *Graham v*

denying the court the power to take into account, by adjusting the multiplier to be assessed as at the date of death, facts established at the trial.

That exercise was permissible when assessing the multiplier and in the normal case went by default because the critical period to be considered in computing the multiplier was (a) rather than (b).

Frequently when (b) was larger than (a) the period over which the receipt of compensation was advanced was substantial. In the normal case went by default because the critical period to be considered in computing the multiplier was (a) rather than (b).

When, however, (b) represented a very short period there would not be much discount from the remaining years to the age of 18. In addition the further discount arising from (4) would also be small. In *Cookson v Knowles* the factors were put into the equation when assessing (c) as at the date of death, they must result in a substantial increase in the multiplier assessed as at the date of death.

That was not the same exercise as that which the Court of Appeal carried out in calculating the multiplier as at the date of trial in *Graham v Dodds*, since it still took into account the uncertainties surrounding the hypothetical survival of the provider of the support.

The failure to do that was the main ground for the rejection of the Court of Appeal's approach in *Graham v Dodds* by Lord Justice Purchas. It was that reason that his Lordship disagreed with Lord Justice Ralph Gibson that *Graham v*

Dodds prevented the court from adjusting the multiplier to take into account the facts arising from the delay before the trial took place. For the same reasons his Lordship could not agree that the judge's finding of a multiplier at 12 should not be disturbed.

It was common ground that either 12 or 13 would have been the appropriate multiplier to cover 18 years dependency in normal circumstances. Not to make a meaningful adjustment because during 11% of the 18 years of dependency, upon which the discounts in (b) would normally be applied but which no longer contain uncertainties would be illogical.

It did in the present case lead to the bizarre position where the dependency of a normal healthy individual was discounted to six years. A judge's finding of a multiplier at 12 should not be disturbed.

For those reasons the judge fixed a multiplier which was demonstrably too low and it was open to the court to use its own discretion and to substitute a multiplier of its own taking into account the facts available at the trial. His Lordship would award an uplift in the multiplier to take into account all adjustments to 15.

Lord Justice Ralph Gibson delivered a dissenting judgment and Lord Justice Farquharson agreed. The judge, concerning with Lord Justice Purchas, Solicitors: Thompson Smith & Puxon, Colchester; Beachcroft Stanleys.

Adding grounds relied on in judicial review upon notice

Regina v Bow Street Stipendiary Magistrate, Ex parte Roberts and Others
Before Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Potts
[Judgment May 10]

An applicant for judicial review who wished to rely upon grounds specified in his notice of motion but in relation to which he had not specifically been given leave by the single judge should within 21 days of

the service of notice of motion serve notice on the respondent specifying those other grounds to be relied upon.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated in considering a renewed application by Jonathan Howard Roberts, Janet Ann Thain, Michael Digby Row and Janet Alison Knapton for leave to apply for judicial review of a decision of the Bow Street Stipendiary Magistrate.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS said that the practice as to reliance upon grounds other than those which had formed the basis for the leave to move

obtained leave to apply for judicial review in respect of one ground but wished to proceed on some of the grounds for which leave had not been given.

Mr Roberts in person.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS said that the practice as to reliance upon grounds other than those which had formed the basis for the leave to move

given by the single judge to an applicant for judicial review needed to be explained.

Where an applicant had made an application for leave to apply for judicial review in respect of one ground but wished to proceed on some of the grounds for which leave had not been given, he had to move expressly upon one of them, it was unnecessary for him to renew his application for the purpose of relying upon the other grounds upon which he had not specifically been given leave to move provided, and this was of the utmost importance, that he gave notice to the respondents that he intended at the substantive hearing to rely upon one or more of the grounds for which he had not expressly been given leave by the single judge to move.

That was so that the respondents would have ample opportunity to consider their position in respect of other grounds upon which the applicant sought to rely. If that was not generally known, and so as to remove all

doubt about it for the future, any applicant who sought to rely upon grounds specified in his notice and in respect of which the single judge had not expressly given leave, and who intended to rely upon one or more of those other grounds, should within 21 days of the service of notice of motion serve upon the respondent a notice which specified those other grounds. It was not necessary to make formal renewal on Form 86B.

Thus in the instant case the applicants within the next 21 days had to give notice to the respondents of their intention to rely on the additional grounds. Because the normal period for filing affidavits had already elapsed the respondents would have from the day of the receipt of the notice from the applicants the opportunity to file any affidavits upon which it was intended to rely.

After the expiry of that 56-day period the matter could be listed for hearing.

Crown court administrators must forward documents promptly

Regina v Field
It could not be emphasized strongly enough how important it was for administrators in the crown court to make sure that all relevant trial documents were forwarded to the Criminal Appeal Office at the earliest possible moment.

The Court of Appeal (Lord

Justice Farquharson, Mr Justice Tudor Evans and Mr Justice Brooke) so stated on May 17, when dismissing an appeal by Carl Alexander Field against a sentence of three years detention in a young offenders institution imposed on April 25, 1989 at Liverpool Crown Court by Judge Campbell, on the appellant's plea of guilty to attempted robbery.

MR JUSTICE TUDOR EVANS said that the documents in the case had been delayed in the crown court, resulting in a delay of no less than eight months.

That was intolerable and not acceptable, bearing in mind that the liberty of the subject was at issue.

It was clear from the judgment in Case 302/87 that the Parliament had no right to bring an action for annulment under the provisions of article 173 of the EEC Treaty or those of article 146 of the Euratom Treaty which was identically worded.

As pointed out by that judge-

ment, not only did the Parliament have the right to bring an action for failure to act but also the Treaties provided various means by which acts of the Council or of the Commission adopted in infringement of the prerogatives of the Parliament could be reviewed by the Court.

None the less the background and the arguments had revealed that however useful and varied the various means of redress laid down by the Euratom and the EEC Treaties might be, they could prove to be inefficient or uncertain.

In the first place, an action for failure to act could not be used to dispute the legal basis of an act which had already been adopted.

Moreover, the submission of a preliminary question relating to the validity of a given act or the bringing of actions before the Court by states or individuals with a view to the annulment of such an act, were mere possibilities upon which the Parliament could not rely.

Finally, although it was for the Commission to ensure the observance of the powers of the Parliament, that task could not go so far as to require the Commission to accept a pos-

sibility of the Parliament and to present an application for annulment which, for its own part, it might view as ill-founded.

It followed from the foregoing that the existence of the legal remedies was not sufficient to guarantee in all circumstances, the annulment of an act of the Council or of the Commission which had infringed the powers of the Parliament.

Those powers were one of the elements in the institutional balance established by the Treaties. The Treaties had established a system of division of powers between the various institutions of the Community, which conferred upon each of them its own task in the institutional structure of the Community and in the achievement of the tasks conferred upon it.

Respect for the institutional balance implied that each institution should be able to exercise its powers while observing those of the others. It required also that any infringement of that rule, should it arise, should be able to be punished.

The Court, which was responsible pursuant to the Treaties for

ensuring the observance of the law in their interpretation and application, had therefore to ensure that the institutional balance was maintained and consequently had to provide judicial review over the observation of the powers of the Parliament where a case was brought before it by the latter, by means of an action suitable to the objective which it was seeking to attain.

In carrying out that task, the Court obviously could not include the Parliament among institutions which might bring an action pursuant to article 173 of the EEC Treaty or article 146 of the Euratom Treaty, without having to demonstrate a specific interest in the proceedings.

It was, however, for it to ensure the full application of the provisions of the Treaties relating to the institutional balance and to act in such a way that, the European Parliament, like the other institutions, could not have its powers infringed without having the possibility of a legal action provided for by the Treaties and which could be used in a certain and effective manner.

The absence from the Treaties

of a provision enabling the Parliament to bring an action for annulment might constitute a procedural lacuna; however, that could not prevail over the fundamental interest in the maintenance and observation of the institutional balance laid down by the Treaties establishing the European Communities.

Consequently, an action for the annulment of an act of the Council or of the Commission brought before the Court by the Parliament was admissible provided that that action sought only to safeguard its powers and that it was based exclusively on grounds based upon the infringement of those powers.

Subject to that reservation, an action for annulment by the European Parliament was to be brought in accordance with the rules laid down in the Treaties for an action for annulment brought by other institutions.

The various powers conferred upon the Parliament by the Treaties, included participation in the procedure for drawing up legislative acts in the context of the cooperation procedure laid down in the EEC Treaty.

In the present case, the Parliament maintained that the disputed regulation was based

on article 31 of the Euratom Treaty, which provided only for consultation of the Parliament, although it ought to have been based on article 100(a) of the EEC Treaty which required the opening of the cooperation procedure with the Parliament.

The Parliament therefore concluded that the choice by the Council of the legal basis for the disputed regulation had resulted in a failure to observe its powers by depriving it of the possibility, provided for in the cooperation procedure of taking a more active part in the drawing up of the act than was possible in the context of the consultation procedure.

The Parliament having raised the question of an infringement of its powers following the choice of the legal basis of the disputed act, it followed from the foregoing that the present action was admissible.

On those grounds the European Court ruled:

1 The objection as to admissibility raised by the Council was dismissed.
2 The proceedings would continue for consideration of the substance of the case.
3 Costs were reserved.

Luxembourg

Tree order power

Newport Borough Council v Khan
A county court judge had jurisdiction under section 22 of the County Court Act 1984 to grant an injunction sought by a local authority against the owner of land in support of a tree preservation order.

MR JUSTICE ALLIOTT said that there were two principal issues: (i) was the tenant protected by the 1977 Act in his occupation of 23 Leighton Place, and (ii) if he was not, was the landlord estopped from contending that the tenant was not protected.

It was common ground that on March 23, 1965 (the "appropriate day") the rateable value limit for protection under the Rent Act was £400. As from

LORD JUSTICE LLOYD said that although the judge did have the jurisdiction to grant an injunction in respect of or in relation to land it was to be invoked only in exceptional circumstances and with great caution.

More than a mere infringement of the criminal law was required. A deliberate flouting of the law would suffice. But those were not the facts of the present case and the evidence had not revealed that any further breaches of the tree preservation order were likely to occur.

The judge had not been justified on the facts of the present case to grant the injunction.

European Law Report

European Parliament can challenge act of Council or Commission in Court

European Parliament v Council of the European Communities (supported by United Kingdom and by the Commission of the European Communities, Interveners).
Case C-70/88

Before O. Due, President and Judges Sir Gordon Slynn, C. N. Kakouris, F. A. Schockweiler, M. Zuleeg, G. F. Mancini, R. Joliet, J. C. Molitoro, de Almeida and G. C. Rodriguez Iglesias.
Advocate General W. van Gerven.
[Opinion November 30, 1989] [Judgment May 22]

The European Parliament might bring an action for annulment before the Court of Justice of the European Communities against an act of the Council or of the Commission provided that such an action sought only to defend the Parliament's powers and that it was based exclusively on arguments based upon the infringement of those powers.

The present action, brought under article 173 of the EEC Treaty and article 146 of the Euratom Treaty, sought the annulment of Council Regulation (Euratom) No 3954/87 of December 22, 1987 laying down maximum permitted levels of

radioactive contamination of foodstuffs and of feedstuffs following a nuclear accident or any other cause of radiological emergency (OJ 1987 No L371, p11).

During the procedure leading to the adoption of the disputed regulation, the European Parliament, having been consulted by the Council in accordance with article 31 of the Euratom Treaty, stated its disagreement with the legal basis proposed by the Commission and invited the latter to submit a fresh proposal based on article 100(a) of the EEC Treaty.

Since the Commission did not accede to that request, the Council adopted Regulation No 3954/87 on the basis of article 31 of the Euratom Treaty, whereupon the European Parliament brought the present action for annulment.

The Council raised an objection to the admissibility of the action based upon article 91 of the Rules of Procedure of the Court and asked the Court to rule upon that objection without entering into the substance.

First tour match a mere romp for Wales

**FROM OWEN JENKINS
SWAKOPMUND, NAMIBIA**

Tools of the trade: Stephen McAllister, from the Elderslie, near Glasgow, goes into the PGA European Championships at Wentworth equipped for all eventualities that may befall a professional golfer. McAllister, who won his players' card last Christmas, is aiming for a good enough finish to exempt him from having to qualify for the British Open at St Andrews in July. In

addition to the clubs, his bag contains: waterproof jacket, trousers and cap, a waterproof hood to protect the clubs, thermal mittens, a large towel, replacement gloves, a selection of golf balls, a Rules of Golf handbook, three dozen tees, a sponsor's visor, lip protection cream, a stud repairer, a ball marker, pencils, a scrubbing brush, a player's badge, an apple and some bananas.

rewarded with another two. The players were 10 points ahead at the interval but lost their rhythm for 10 minutes of the second period when they concentrated their efforts on chase, driving forward play with both backs and backs and Reynolds took men on.

The backs were orchestrated by Ring, who was leading Wales for the first time. The plethora of backs and the time used in it allowing him the freedom to experiment. There were further tries for Llewellyn, Phillips, the flanker, Williams, the stand-off, and the scrum-half, and Ring. Buckett, which brought up 70 points, Williams also kicked two conversions.

While this victory has given Wales the best possible start to the international season, it may be the weakest Wales will meet. But Ron Waldron, the coach, could have some selection problems with the young players in the side performing so well.

The Welsh team now move back to the capital, Windhoek, for the meeting with Namibia B on Saturday.

SCORES: Wales: Triers: S Fealey (3), S Ford (2), O Williams (2), G Llewellyn, R Phillips, A Williams, S Bowling, M Ring, I Buckett. Conversions: M Rayer (7), A Williams (2). Penalty: M Rayer.

WALES: M Rayer, S Ford, M Ring, A Bateman, S Bowling, A Williams, S Fealey, I Buckett, K Phillips, P Knight, R Phillips, G Llewellyn, P Arnold, O Williams, A Reynolds.

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Gillies rises to the Prince's Challenge

Faldo, who last year donated to charity all his winnings from the world match-play championship at Wentworth, earned £5,000 for The Sportsman Aid Society and The Teenage Cancer Appeal. McNulty's £3,000 went to The RAF Benevolent Fund.

Tools of the trade: Stephen Elderslie, near Glasgow, goes for the 1994 British Open Championships at Wentworth. The eventuality that may be his: golfer. McAllister, who won last Christmas, is aiming for

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addition to the clubs, his bag contains: waterproof jacket, trowsers and cap, a waterproof hood to protect the clubs, thermal mittens, a large towel, replacement gloves, a selection of golf balls, a Rules of Golf handbook, three dozen tees, a sponsor's visor, a protection cream, a stud repairer, a ball

CYCLING

Go-slow in Giro over Theunisse

FABRIANO (Agencies) — Riders and team directors protested during the Giro d'Italia yesterday over the continued presence in the race of Gert-Jan Theunisse, the Dutch cyclist, who had failed a doping test in Belgium last month.

They delayed the start of the sixteenth stage from Teramo for several minutes and threatened to boycott Saturday's stage entirely unless the organizers imposed a three-month suspension on Theunisse.

Theunisse, fourth in the Tour de France last year, was tested positive in the 1988 Tour. His second offence ought to have meant a six-month suspension but the organizers decided to say he is a first offender and have imposed a three-month suspended ban.

Yesterday, Theunisse finished tenth in the bunch but several riders and directors said he should not have been allowed to ride.

RESULTS: Sixth stage, from Fabriano to Foligno (220km): 1, G. Gali (I), 2, P. Van den Broeck (B), 3, M. Elia (I), 4, M. Elia (I), 5, M. Elia (I), 6, G. Gali (I) and 7, M. Elia (I). 8, G. Gali (I), 9, G. Gali (I), 10, G. Gali (I), 11, G. Gali (I), 12, G. Gali (I), 13, G. Gali (I), 14, G. Gali (I), 15, G. Gali (I), 16, G. Gali (I), 17, G. Gali (I), 18, G. Gali (I), 19, G. Gali (I), 20, G. Gali (I), 21, G. Gali (I), 22, G. Gali (I), 23, G. Gali (I), 24, G. Gali (I), 25, G. Gali (I), 26, G. Gali (I), 27, G. Gali (I), 28, G. Gali (I), 29, G. Gali (I), 30, G. Gali (I), 31, G. Gali (I), 32, G. Gali (I), 33, G. Gali (I), 34, G. Gali (I), 35, G. Gali (I), 36, G. Gali (I), 37, G. Gali (I), 38, G. Gali (I), 39, G. Gali (I), 40, G. Gali (I), 41, G. Gali (I), 42, G. Gali (I), 43, G. Gali (I), 44, G. Gali (I), 45, G. Gali (I), 46, G. Gali (I), 47, G. Gali (I), 48, G. Gali (I), 49, G. Gali (I), 50, G. Gali (I), 51, G. Gali (I), 52, G. Gali (I), 53, G. Gali (I), 54, G. Gali (I), 55, G. 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By PATRICIA DAVIES

could leave room at the Oak Road end for visiting supporters.

With Nelkin and a colleague, David Kohler, assuming a majority shareholding in a £3 million deal, Evans has resigned from the board to concentrate on his duties as a Conservative MP.

It is not clear if the Football Association will pursue a charge against him of bringing the game into disrepute following his alleged involvement in a row about Manchester United and Leeds United.

• Chris Nicholl has signed a new two-year contract with the division one side, Southampton. The club, which finished seventh last season, has also awarded its first team coach, Dennis Rofe, 'with a similar deal'.

Nicholl was the bookmakers' pre-season favourite to lose his job, but guided Southampton to their best position since he took over from Lawrie McMenemy five years ago.

The chairman, Guy Ashken, said: "I'm very pleased to have reached agreement with Chris. No one could have worked harder for this club, and I look forward to him improving our position still further and, hopefully, bringing us a trophy."

THE early morning phone call came from her fiancé, saying their flat had been burgled, was not guaranteed to set Fiona MacDonald up for a low scoring day in the second round of the English women's amateur championship at Rye yesterday, but it did.

The Cambridge Blue and President's Putzer pioneer — she was the first woman to take those particular holy orders — recorded an 88 of 151, a rather really the only sensible course to take with the fairways suffering from the effects of global warming, and led the qualifiers with a total of 142, also six under.

Helen Dobson, the defending champion, more than realized her modest ambition of reaching the matchplay stages, with a 71 for second place on 144. Her balling elbow clad in a piece of blue wet suit material, Dobson went out in 34, two under par, and then made a superb putt on the eagle three at the 4th. The second nine was not pain-free but another eagle three, at the 13th, was an adequate anesthetic. Her biggest alarm came at the 18th where Sara Rowley, playing partner and prize-hunter, hit her second shot straight

at the clubhouse window, sending the old school and Royal and Ancient ties ducking for cover. Even though they knew from long experience that the glass was strong enough to repel all but the boldest of birds.

Not surprisingly, Macdonald treated a little up the first but a second-iron birdie two at the second concentrated her mind wonderfully on her golf. She put an eighteen-iron to six inches there, and then for another birdie she took the tenth and sank a 10-foot putt for birdie at the 5th. At the 7th, she hit her tee shot over the green but chipped close to save par. Macdonald continued to chip well coming home and had three more birdies.

LEADING QUALIFYING SCORES: 142 P.

1. 142: J. Dabson (Socorro) 73, 69. 2. 143: J. Morgan (Socorro) 73, 70. 3. 144: S. Hargrave (Socorro) 73, 71. 4. 145: J. Robinson (Hewitt) 73, 72. 5. 151: A. Jones (Socorro) 73, 78. 6. 152: A. Jones (Socorro) 73, 79. 7. 153: J. Berchert (Alamogordo) 74, 79. 8. 153: A. Uzdevinis (Berkeley) 77, 76. 9. 153: S. Hodges (Palo Alto) 77, 76. 10. 154: J. B. Bennett (Colchester) 80, 74. 11. 154: K. Tolbert (East Devon) 80, 74. 12. 154: S. Bennett (Colchester) 82, 72. 13. 155: J. B. Bennett (Colchester) 82, 73. 14. 155: J. P. Firth (Huddersfield) 75, 80. 15. 155: J. MacDonald (Andover) 76, 79. 16. 156: J. B. Bennett (Colchester) 82, 74. 17. 156: J. Gentry (Surfside) 77, 79. 18. 157: J. Gentry (Surfside) 77, 79. 19. 157: A. Brighouse (Andover) 78, 79. 20. 157: A. Brighouse (Andover) 78, 79.

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By JOHN HENNESSY

JUL day for golf, set zephyr to stir to the destruction yesterday. Not only of 72 for the re-Dunes layout a sive, but there was below 70 for the first time since what was formerly PGA European series.

Players on 66 were the leading assist- and last year, and the Ludlow club behind came from the front.

Robinson, a former strokeplay champion Keith Jones, the current champion in Richardson, still England Amateur, was among the top 69.

The weather was better of achievement emerged as a player after a 69 on four shots clear of the rest of the 1987 team, Robinson says.

"I have, has acquired Scotland that we can see south of the border. He played in all four rounds of last year's Open at Troon. He proposes this year to venture farther afield and after, he would hope, a lucrative season on the Tarnun Tour, he will go to Montpelier, France, Volvo PGA Tour qualifying school in November.

Apart from a pinch and putt for 40 at the 16th, he was never likely to go over par, whereas elsewhere he hauled in four birdies and an eagle shot at the very end of the 5th.

Robinson, running into form as a professional, went through the green at the 5th to drop a shot, but he was already two under par for the day and finished five under, with an impressive three at the 18th, where he hit an eight iron to six inches.

E.C.I.

LEADING SCORES: 125 C Gilroy, 68; 138 J Robinson, 72; 68 G Curry, 68; 70 P Goss, 72; 71 G Grant, 74; 141 F Hooper, S Hurley 71; 70 S Richardson, 72; 148 S McDermott, 73; 73 D Johnston, 73; 74 A Harty, 69; 142 L Vennart, 74; 75 P Murray, 72; 143 S Robertson, 73; 70 N Parkin, 73; 70 R McEneaney, 73; 75 G Stirling, 72; 144 A Hanna, 71; 73 K Timble (Australia), 71; 73 P Davidson, 72; 74 M MacKenzie, 73; 74 S Spencer, 72; 145 G Ritchie, 70; 75 S Spence, 74; 70 K Jones, 75; C.T. James, 75; 75 W Brown, 75; 75 W Henry, 72; 75 G King, 74.

Air threat to Monaco

E (Reuter) — Thousands

met the Scot for the WBC International lightweight title 16 months ago.

After his fiasco in which Lennox Lewis stopped Dan "The Businessman" Murphy, of Nebraska, in six rounds at Sheffield, he faces another American heavyweight, Lionel Washington, at the Albert Hall.

All Washington's defeats have been on knockouts.

Wolver and Terry Davis disposed of him in one, Oscar Holman in two, Orin Norris in three, Renaldo Snipes in four, Michael Dokes in eight.

Also on the bill, Mark Reeter defends his Commonwealth super-featherweight title against Thunder Ayeah, of Ghana.

Southfield

By JOHN WATSON

KERRY Packer, whose stables are at the Fynning Hill estate, near Midhurst, Sussex, sent some 60 ponies to Ambersham yesterday to mount his second high-goal aquatics Elleston Cup-BMW league match against Southfield. Southfield won, 8-6.

The first half went West Southfield's way with their 10-handicap Mexican, Memo Gracida, dominating the play. The account was opened by Elleston's 10-handicap, Memo Gracida, but Southfield were quick to reply, Dorigan taking the ball down the pitch to find the Elleston

KANSAS CITY PLAYERS 8, Detroit Tigers 2.
NATIONAL LEAGUE: Chicago Cubs 2, Cincinnati Reds 1 (1st inning).
American League: New York Mets 6, Los Angeles Dodgers 3; Montreal Expos 7, St. Louis Cardinals 1; St. Louis Cardinals 4, Houston Astros 4.
BASKETBALL
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Play-off first round Conference Finals Detroit Pistons 109, Cleveland Cavaliers 99 (Pistons had best-of-seven decision, 2-0).
BOWLS
COUNTY MATCH: Bedfordshire 105, Middlesex 102.
Sunday 9/22: Surrey 97, Essex 123; Wiltshire 169, South Gloucestershire 122.
BOXING
ST ALBANS: British featherweight champion John Mulvey (12 bouts) won Marbury (6) Alcock (one bout) by majority decision.
Liverpool: Lightweight champion Joe Foweraker defeated Wayne Hann (two bouts) by unanimous decision.
London: Nippy Pate (Career) drew with Melsior.

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would be spectators could be forced to miss the Monaco Grand Prix this weekend, a national holiday, if a threatened strike by air traffic controllers on the Riviera goes ahead.

Air Inter, France's domestic airline, said it will have to cancel two-thirds of its flights if the three-day strike in Nice takes place from Saturday. Local businessmen are also threatening to down tools from Sunday.

Graziano dies

New York (Reuters) — Rocky Graziano, who rose from street brawler to world middleweight champion in 1947, has died at the age of 68.

Obituary, page 14



Pay legal

y legal

He said, "Davidson went above and beyond when he won the international title and we want to put the record straight. I doubt if Davidson can stay too good."

However, Murphy is due for an enforced rest of at least eight weeks. He received two bad cuts, one on the bridge of his nose, the other by his left eye. He is unlikely to box again this season. In the meantime, Fossey hopes to persuade him to take his wife and two sons on a holiday in the sun. "He's so white he looks like a milk bottle," Fossey said.

The fifth saw the tide turn in Ellerston's favour. Kent making the target with a lofted back cut, and Mackenzie the second. In the last chukka Gilmore made it 7-4, but Veonnan widened it again before a 10-0 fourth round for Mackenzie.

FOURTH RILEY 1 J Yeoman (2), 2 G Gilmour (5), 3 M Gradacia (10), back 0 Jensen (4).

FIFTH RILEY 1 B Lacey (6), 2 A Gilmore (6), 3 G Mackenzie (8), back 0 Fischer (4).

CRICKET

MAH CLARSON 270-87: *Shelby* (Hampshire) 1974-75, 1976-77, 1978-79, 1980-81, 1982-83, 1984-85, 1986-87, 1988-89, 1990-91, 1992-93, 1994-95, 1996-97, 1998-99, 2000-01, 2002-03, 2004-05, 2006-07, 2008-09, 2010-11, 2012-13, 2014-15, 2016-17, 2018-19, 2020-21, 2022-23, 2024-25, 2026-27, 2028-29, 2030-31, 2032-33, 2034-35, 2036-37, 2038-39, 2040-41, 2042-43, 2044-45, 2046-47, 2048-49, 2050-51, 2052-53, 2054-55, 2056-57, 2058-59, 2060-61, 2062-63, 2064-65, 2066-67, 2068-69, 2070-71, 2072-73, 2074-75, 2076-77, 2078-79, 2080-81, 2082-83, 2084-85, 2086-87, 2088-89, 2090-91, 2092-93, 2094-95, 2096-97, 2098-99, 2100-01, 2102-03, 2104-05, 2106-07, 2108-09, 2110-11, 2112-13, 2114-15, 2116-17, 2118-19, 2120-21, 2122-23, 2124-25, 2126-27, 2128-29, 2130-31, 2132-33, 2134-35, 2136-37, 2138-39, 2140-41, 2142-43, 2144-45, 2146-47, 2148-49, 2150-51, 2152-53, 2154-55, 2156-57, 2158-59, 2160-61, 2162-63, 2164-65, 2166-67, 2168-69, 2170-71, 2172-73, 2174-75, 2176-77, 2178-79, 2180-81, 2182-83, 2184-85, 2186-87, 2188-89, 2190-91, 2192-93, 2194-95, 2196-97, 2198-99, 2200-01, 2202-03, 2204-05, 2206-07, 2208-09, 2210-11, 2212-13, 2214-15, 2216-17, 2218-19, 2220-21, 2222-23, 2224-25, 2226-27, 2228-29, 2230-31, 2232-33, 2234-35, 2236-37, 2238-39, 2240-41, 2242-43, 2244-45, 2246-47, 2248-49, 2250-51, 2252-53, 2254-55, 2256-57, 2258-59, 2260-61, 2262-63, 2264-65, 2266-67, 2268-69, 2270-71, 2272-73, 2274-75, 2276-77, 2278-79, 2280-81, 2282-83, 2284-85, 2286-87, 2288-89, 2290-91, 2292-93, 2294-95, 2296-97, 2298-99, 2300-01, 2302-03, 2304-05, 2306-07, 2308-09, 2310-11, 2312-13, 2314-15, 2316-17, 2318-19, 2320-21, 2322-23, 2324-25, 2326-27, 2328-29, 2330-31, 2332-33, 2334-35, 2336-37, 2338-39, 2340-41, 2342-43, 2344-45, 2346-47, 2348-49, 2350-51, 2352-53, 2354-55, 2356-57, 2358-59, 2360-61, 2362-63, 2364-65, 2366-67, 2368-69, 2370-71, 2372-73, 2374-75, 2376-77, 2378-79, 2380-81, 2382-83, 2384-85, 2386-87, 2388-89, 2390-91, 2392-93, 2394-95, 2396-97, 2398-99, 2400-01, 2402-03, 2404-05, 2406-07, 2408-09, 2410-11, 2412-13, 2414-15, 2416-17, 2418-19, 2420-21, 2422-23, 2424-25, 2426-27, 2428-29, 2430-31, 2432-33, 2434-35, 2436-37, 2438-39, 2440-41, 2442-43, 2444-45, 2446-47, 2448-49, 2450-51, 2452-53, 2454-55, 2456-57, 2458-59, 2460-61, 2462-63, 2464-65, 2466-67, 2468-69, 2470-71, 2472-73, 2474-75, 2476-77, 2478-79, 2480-81, 2482-83, 2484-85, 2486-87, 2488-89, 2490-91, 2492-93, 2494-95, 2496-97, 2498-99, 2500-01, 2502-03, 2504-05, 2506-07, 2508-09, 2510-11, 2512-13, 2514-15, 2516-17, 2518-19, 2520-21, 2522-23, 2524-25, 2526-27, 2528-29, 2530-31, 2532-33, 2534-35, 2536-37, 2538-39, 2540-41, 2542-43, 2544-45, 2546-47, 2548-49, 2550-51, 2552-53, 2554-55, 2556-57, 2558-59, 2560-61, 2562-63, 2564-65, 2566-67, 2568-69, 2570-71, 2572-73, 2574-75, 2576-77, 2578-79, 2580-81, 2582-83, 2584-85, 2586-87, 2588-89, 2590-91, 2592-93, 2594-95, 2596-97, 2598-99, 2600-01, 2602-03, 2604-05, 2606-07, 2608-09, 2610-11, 2612-13, 2614-15, 2616-17, 2618-19, 2620-21, 2622-23, 2624-25, 2626-27, 2628-29, 2630-31, 2632-33, 2634-35, 2636-37, 2638-39, 2640-41, 2642-43, 2644-45, 2646-47, 2648-49, 2650-51, 2652-53, 2654-55, 2656-57, 2658-59, 2660-61, 2662-63, 2664-65, 2666-67, 2668-69, 2670-71, 2672-73, 2674-75, 2676-77, 2678-79, 2680-81, 2682-83, 2684-85, 2686-87, 2688-89, 2690-91, 2692-93, 2694-95, 2696-97, 2698-99, 2700-01, 2702-03, 2704-05, 2706-07, 2708-09, 2710-11, 2712-13, 2714-15, 2716-17, 2718-19, 2720-21, 2722-23, 2724-25, 2726-27, 2728-29, 2730-31, 2732-33, 2734-35, 2736-37, 2738-39, 2740-41, 2742-43, 2744-45, 2746-47, 2748-49, 2750-51, 2752-53, 2754-55, 2756-57, 2758-59, 2760-61, 2762-63, 2764-65, 2766-67, 2768-69, 2770-71, 2772-73, 2774-75, 2776-77, 2778-79, 2780-81, 2782-83, 2784-85, 2786-87, 2788-89, 2790-91, 2792-93, 2794-95, 2796-97, 2798-99, 2800-01, 2802-03, 2804-05, 2806-07, 2808-09, 2810-11, 2812-13, 2814-15, 2816-17, 2818-19, 2820-21, 2822-23, 2824-25, 2826-27, 2828-29, 2830-31, 2832-33, 2834-35, 2836-37, 2838-39, 2840-41, 2842-43, 2844-45, 2846-47, 2848-49, 2850-51, 2852-53, 2854-55, 2856-57, 2858-59, 2860-61, 2862-63, 2864-65, 2866-67, 2868-69, 2870-71, 2872-73,

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Professional footballer is to be introduced next season in Bulgaria after years of undercover professionalism.

20

OS POOLS, LIVERPOOL
SUMMER PAYOUT

4.194

4 DRAWS.....£7-25
12 HOMES.....£2,120-60
 (PAID ON 11 HOMES)

6 WAYS.....£138-00
Above dividends to units of 10p
Expenses and Commission

5th May 1990-26.9%
All dividends subject to resecutiny.
EE 0800 400 400-24hrs

IES

● RACING 41
● CRICKET 42
● FOOTBALL 43

SPORT

England's old failings repeated

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

HEADINGLEY (New Zealand won toss): New Zealand beat England by four wickets.

ENGLAND came to Headingley one early summer's day last year amid animated talk of a brave new dawn. They were wiped out by Australia. Yesterday, on the same ground, and with similarly heady anticipation, they disappointed again, this time losing to an underrated New Zealand.

Although the 1989 debacle was a Test match, and this a comparatively trivial one-day game which went to its penultimate ball, the parallels are hard to ignore.

Yesterday, as last year, England were beaten because they bowled carelessly and sometimes cluelessly against batsmen too good to pass up such philanthropy.

To win this first of two Texaco Trophy matches, New Zealand did not need to need to, even on a pitch as good as this. Having been cruising to victory, needing 72 off 12 overs with eight wickets in hand, New Zealand made hard work of it, and it was Mark Greatbatch, sure to be one of the faces of this summer, who got them home with his maiden one-day century.

Ian Smith, a man made for such situations, clubbed the fifth ball of the final over for four to finish the job.

In choosing to chase runs, New Zealand had in mind the limitations of their own bowling attack. Snedden's stomach strain was considered too bad to risk, and in his place came 22-year-old Chris Pringle, direct from Bradford League cricket with the Pudsey club. Pringle was sensibly put straight into the game by Wright. Supporting Hadlee with the new ball, he kept to a commendably full length. Later, memorably for him, he was to take the wicket of the England captain.

Gooch's reunion with Gower was not an instant success. Off the mark with a thick edge to the third man, Gower fell in the fifth over. Aiming to force through the on side against Hadlee, he failed to get over the ball.

That was New Zealand's last tangible success until just before lunch. It was the change bowling — Morrison, Millmow and Priest — which gave England the scope for rapid acceleration.

Gooch was majestic, his six over long on against Millmow a study in balance. It was a surprise to all, visitors not exempt, when he departed. By then, Robin Smith was thundering along. The juggernaut of a player he is nowadays, he had his luck here, put down once by Morrison and twice — difficult chances — by Hadlee, but between times he massaged anything overpitched



Beaten to the punch: Alan Lamb continues on his way to the pavilion after being run out by the New Zealand wicketkeeper, Smith, yesterday

with a sequence of cover drives. Lamb, reacting late to Smith's call, was run out by Stewart, who played a perky innings of real style, driving and pulling successive fours off Hadlee, who had hitherto not conceded a boundary in eight overs.

Smith, using his feet against the seamers and easing the ball into gaps, passed his first one-day hundred for England and advanced to the fourth highest score in 18 years of such internationals in this country. Hadlee tried to fox him with a slower ball but he waited and clubbed it through extra cover for four. Aiming to clear deep square leg from the next, he narrowly failed. Russell did not waste a ball and neither did England's Pringle. With great conviction, he hit the last four balls of the innings for four. Hadlee, unbelievably was the bowler.

There seemed few in the ground who gave New Zealand a chance of making so many. Headingley was no more than two-thirds full, and all day long there had been a shortage of atmosphere.

Has the public grown tired of the repetitive one-day formula? Surely not. Maybe they had simply underestimated the tourists.

Wright announced his intentions by driving the first

ball of the reply for four. Thereafter he was not at his best for a time, but, along with the reliable Jones, another who is more about adhesion than appearance, he gave his side the ideal platform: 87 came from the first 20 overs, at which point Lewis had conceded 28 in four, and was looking raw and unprepared. Gooch took the ball himself, good and timely captaincy. Within two overs, he had doubled his wickets tally for the season by dismissing both the openers.

To have Crowe and Greatbatch striding in, just when you feel you have broken the back of the job, is not a comforting sight. In the next 20 overs they added 118, the left handed Greatbatch dominating the strike and the scoring. One punched drive for six over midwicket off

Pringle was the stroke of the day, but to be honest the batting was assisted by bowling which paid little heed to the disciplines of line and length.

It began to go wrong for New Zealand as soon as Crowe fell, gloving an attempted pull. Two balls later, Rutherford was given no benefit of the doubt for an lbw which looked high. The game had changed: Hadlee cut to gully, Lewis's third wicket in a transformed second spell, and Priest was blindingly caught by Gower at short mid-wicket before they claimed the win they deserved.

● Gladstone Small, England's senior bowler in the one-day international series, is doubtful for tomorrow's second match after suffering thigh and groin damage while bowling at Headingley yesterday.

● Compiled by Richard Lockwood

batting second in all one-day internationals as the match also produced a record aggregate for a 55-over international in England.

Chris Lewis's best figures for England could not prevent New Zealand's remarkable four-wicket victory as they made the highest score ever to win a one-day international.

● Compiled by Richard Lockwood

It was his fourth 100 of the month in all matches. New Zealand's Mark Greatbatch also made his maiden one-day international 100, as his side compiled their highest one-day score against England and also the highest total by a side

batting second in all one-day internationals as the match also produced a record aggregate for a 55-over international in England.

Chris Lewis's best figures for England could not prevent New Zealand's remarkable four-wicket victory as they made the highest score ever to win a one-day international.

● Compiled by Richard Lockwood

SCORECARD FROM HEADINGLEY

New Zealand won toss

ENGLAND	6s	4s	Mins	Balls
*G A Gooch c Millmow b Pringle	55	1	4	121
D I Gower c Priest b Hadlee	1	-	-	15
Pick to square-leg	128	-	16	198
R A Smith c Crowe b Hadlee	18	-	2	36
Caught on square-leg boundary	33	1	3	25
A J Lamb run out	33	1	3	25
Beaten by throw from mid-on	30	-	5	31
A J Stewart b Morrison	13	-	3	4
Played across full-length ball	1	-	-	6
D R Pringle not out	1	-	-	6
TR C Russell c Crowe b Pringle	1	-	-	6
Sitting to deep mid-wicket	1	-	-	6
P A J DeFreitas not out	1	-	-	6

Extras (10b 1w 5nb) 16
Total (5 wickets) 256

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-118, 3-168, 4-225, 5-261, 6-274
BOWLING: Hadlee 11-4-46-2 (nb 2); Pringle 11-2-45-2 (nb 1); Morrison 11-0-70-1 (nb 4 w 1); Millmow 11-0-65-0; Priest 11-0-59-0.

NEW ZEALAND

NEW ZEALAND	6s	4s	Mins	Balls
*J G Wright c Stewart b Gooch	52	-	8	95
Cut to backward point	51	-	4	87
A H Jones at Russell b Gooch	46	-	3	78
Struck off-side standing	102	2	9	131
M D Crowe c Russell b Lewis	0	-	-	1
Gloved pull to mid-wicket	12	-	1	24
M J Greatbatch not out	2	-	-	6
K R Rutherford b b Lewis	17	-	2	25
Beaten on back-foot	17	-	2	25
R H Hadlee c Lamb b Lewis	17	-	2	25
Cut to gully	17	-	2	25
M W Priest c Gower b Small	17	-	2	25
Pull to short mid-wicket	17	-	2	25
I D S Smith not out	17	-	2	25
Extras (5 b 5 w 7 nb 1) 16	17	-	2	25
Total (6 wickets, 54.5 overs) 298	17	-	2	25

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-67, 2-106, 3-224, 4-224, 5-254, 6-259
BOWLING: Small 11-1-43-1 (w 2); DeFreitas 10-5-70-0 (nb 1); Pringle 7-0-45-0; Lewis 11-0-54-3 (w 1); Hadlee 11-0-51-0; Gooch 4-0-23-2.
Man of the Match: M J Greatbatch
Umpires: B J Meyer and M T Pheas.

New Zealand win by four wickets

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Berlin test

Derek Redmond, national 400 metres record holder, who missed the Commonwealth Games with Achilles, and hamstring injuries, makes his comeback in East Berlin on July 4.

More racing, page 41

Cook brings landmark in sight

By GEOFFREY WHEELER

JIMMY Cook, Somerset's South African batsman, followed his rare double failure against Derbyshire in the previous match by making life miserable for the Sussex bowlers at Taunton yesterday, scoring 197 before he was dismissed shortly before tea.

This latest remarkable effort brought Cook's first-class aggregate for the season to 770, leaving him with a maximum of three more innings to complete the rarely achieved feat of scoring 1,000 runs before the end of May.

It has been done only twice since the end of the Second World War, by Glenn Turner, for the New Zealanders, and the Zimbabwe-born Graeme Hick, for Worcestershire. The last Englishman to do it was Bill Edrich, of Middlesex, in 1938.

Cook, aged 36, failed by only four runs to score a century before lunch and hit the first ball after the interval to the fence. He fell to Colin Wells, trying to hit the boundary which would have taken him past 200 for the second time this season. In all, he hit a

six and 30 fours from 197 balls.

He completed 1,000 runs in all competitions this season in last Sunday's Refuge Assurance League match against Derbyshire. That total included an innings of 177 against Sussex in the Benson and Hedges Cup game at Hove.

With Somerset 500 for five, Cook may not get a second innings in the present game. In that case his last chances will be against Leicestershire at Grace Road over the Spring Bank holiday weekend.

More cricket, page 42

Berlin test

Derek Redmond, national 400 metres record holder, who missed the Commonwealth Games with Achilles, and hamstring injuries, makes his comeback in East Berlin on July 4.

More racing, page 41

An exclusive BBC World Cup menu

By JOHN GOODBODY

BBC TELEVISION yesterday announced its World Cup coverage, which will stretch from highlights of the opening game of the tournament, between Argentina and Cameroon on June 9, through to a double-header of the final plus the Wimbledon men's singles final on Sunday, July 8.

The highlight of the BBC coverage of the preliminary phase will be its exclusive live coverage of England versus The Netherlands in Cagliari on June 16. Viewers in Scotland will instead see the match between Scotland and Sweden in Genoa on the same day. Both audiences will also see highlights from the other match.

England's final match in the preliminary phase against Egypt will also be shown live alongside highlights from The Netherlands against the Republic of Ireland in Palermo.

The BBC, which has covered every World Cup since 1954, has an agreement

with ITV not to show the same games in the first round, when the 24 competing nations are reduced to 16. The two companies will then renegotiate arrangements for the later stages. If the pattern of the 1986 tournament is repeated, there will then be duplication of matches on both channels.

Desmond Lynam will be the anchorman of the programme from London.

● The Wimbledon Championships may yet be seen live on BSB, Britain's latest sports channel. However, the coverage will not be in competition with the BBC coverage but adding to it.

It is planned to have two hours of highlights beginning at 8 pm when the BBC goes off the air. However, Andrew Croker, the head of BSB sport, said that if there were something exciting taking place when the BSB coverage started then it would be shown live.

The man who put on style

TEDDY Tinting, the man who revolutionized women's tennis wear and became a leading official on the Women's Tennis Association tournament circuit, has died at the age of 79.

Tinting was suffering from a respiratory complaint at the time of his death in a Cambridge hospital.

He will always be famous for the gold-laced panties he designed for Gorgeous Gussie Moran, the American player, in the 1950s.

For years, he acted as the liaison man between the players and officials at Wimbledon and was frequently occupied as an interpreter at the French Open. Completely bald and sporting an ear-ring in his left ear, the 6ft 6in Tinting was an imposing figure in his colourful clothes.

His life-long love of tennis began, when as a boy of 15 living on the French Riviera, he umpired many games for Suzanne Lenglen.

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Lean pickings for Maiden as wind delays race finish

By BARRY PICKTHALL

AS FOUR more yachts, including Britain's top entry, Rothmans, drifted in to Southampton yesterday at the end of the 33,000-mile Whitbread Round the World Yacht Race, Tracy Edwards, the skipper of Britain's all-women entry, Maiden, reported that they would run out of food today.

Edwards's 58ft yacht, which is more than 600 miles out in the Atlantic, ran out of wind five days ago and is not likely to reach the finish until Sunday at the earliest.

"We will have our last meal tomorrow night — it's chili con carne — and from then on we are down to whatever we can find in the emergency grab bags," she said yesterday.

"The wind is so frustrating. It starts to build up and we think, ah... at last; but then it just fades away again. On Monday and Tuesday we managed to make between one and two knots and have covered less than 200 miles in two days."

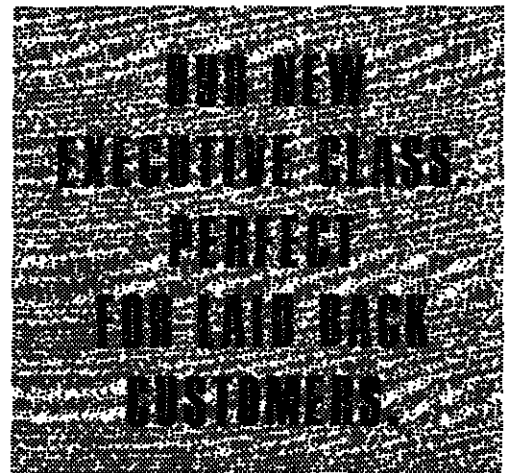
The good news is that they are not alone. "There are four boats within sight of each other — it is just like a start. We have Rucanor Sport just ahead of us, Schlüssel von Bremen on the horizon astern and Saqueto British Defender to one side. It is so boring out here that we have decided to hold an inter-yacht quiz on the radio tonight. The problem is that the only questions we can think of are about food, and since the other crews have even less than us, it is probably not fair to ask them 'What are the ingredients of pavlova?'"

The calm conditions has also slowed Maiden's rival for division honours, L'Esprit de Liberté. Patrick Tabary's French challenger, which now leads this class, is less than 60 miles ahead, having lost more than 40 miles to Rucanor and Edwards crew during the past week. Behind them all is La Poste, who still had more than

700 miles to go yesterday, but are by no means lost. That dubious honour rests with Andrew Coghill's aging maxi, With Integrity, which trails her cruiser class rival Creightons Naturally by 600 miles.

YESTERDAY'S FINISHERS (clockwise from top left): 4, Rothmans (L. Smith, GB), 17 days, 12w 43m; 5, The Card (H. Nelson, GB), 17d 19h 07m; 7, Belmont Finland (H. Hietanen, FIN), 17d 20h 55m; 8, Fortune (J. Santama, FIN), 17d 21h 44m.
OVERALL: 1, Saqueto 2, 12d 29h 40m; 2, Fisher & Paykel, 12d 21h 18m; 3, Mont. 13d 10h 10m; 4, Rothmans, 13d 04h 54m; 5, The Card, 13d 07h 15m.
OTHER POSITIONS (at 13.56 GMT yesterday, with race to Southampton): 6, L'Esprit de Liberté (P. Tabary, FR), 17d 19h 07m; 7, Belmont Finland (H. Hietanen, FIN), 17d 20h 55m; 8, Fortune (J. Santama, FIN), 17d 21h 44m.
9, Rucanor Sport (B. Edwards, GB), 17d 21h 44m; 10, Schlüssel von Bremen (H. Müller, FR), 17d 21h 44m; 11, La Poste (B. Malle, FR), 17d 21h 44m; 12, Creightons Naturally (A. Coghill, GB), 17d 21h 44m.
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Lawrie Smith, page 40



Only JAL have installed a seat that is a breakthrough in design. Amongst other features it is wider, has special lumbar support and can recline further than before. New Executive Class is available on non-stop flights.



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